

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB

DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL. 16 NO. 7

23/9/88

Welcome to the Phil Beart edition of Dribbling Balls. Fair dinkum, Phil is the only bloke I know who writes as much rubbish about basketball as I do (Patrick Smithers' Seoul reports excluded). Anyway read on, or skip all this and turn straight to Classic Commentary on the back....

CYMS A Grade Women (Sun. 21/8)

Uni 47 d. Jetz (2) 31

Spike returned to the fold after her honeymoon but wasn't as tanned as everyone had been worried about so we decided to let her play. Anne had revealed her intention to leave for greener (well, warmer) pastures to Sydney and was no longer playing. Still, everyone else showed up for once and we had 6 players for a 10 o'clock game. Unheard of.... Jetz(2) are not a very tall side and not very good either. However they do wear those famous red and black singlets and with the example of Timmy Watson's and Essendon's victory over Melbourne still in the air (Demons never could handle those also ran teams - Ed.) they proceeded to try and win the game. The first half however belonged to us, with Bernie tossing the three pointers in with careless abandon (4 in a row) and Carmel and Spike hitting inside when it was their turn. Our solid zone was working well and we picked up numerous fast breaks. Gillian had been at IV training all afternoon (the first part basketball, the second part drinking) and was enjoying herself driving to the basket and picking up fouls. Lesley was playing in Burnsy's singlet and proceeded to play the inside game with considerable success, which left Spike to sit quietly on the baseline and toss in 16 points for the half. Tracy came on and proceeded to show all of us how to rebound at both ends of the court and were consequently were well up at half time. The second half saw us all take up that air of complacency we are so well known for and let the lead quietly slip away. They went to a box and one on Bernie, which was very flattering to Bernie but left us in a quandary as to what retaliatory measures to take. Tracy told me we didn't take a shot for the first 11 minutes of the half and as Robert always tells us "you can't score if you don't shoot" so we went out after a time out and "went spastic" shooting from everywhere. We missed most of them but enough went in to keep us comfortably ahead. The joy is think this was our last 10 p.m. game. Roll on summer...

Spike 16, Bernie 13, Leslie 8, Carmel 6, Gillian 4.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 22/8)

Uni 36 d. M.O.B. 33

A great win over the top team to consolidate second position and there is really no excuse for not making the finals. Not a pretty game, but overall a gutsy, determined effort, and a very non-Uni performance! A careful start saw our thoroughly confusing

triangle and two defence perplex M.O.B. Unfortunately our offence was ratshit, with little or no movement, and we swapped to a zone press to alter the rhythm of the game. Instant panic from M.O.B. who start throwing the ball away. Scoreline at half time 14-18. We are still not firing up in offence, but getting bulk possessions from our excellent zone press work. Tim is doing a great job on their big centre, and with help on the boards from Matt, Scott, Marco and Phil he is beginning to lose interest and commencing to whinge. Coach is shuffling the little fellas off the bench and the pressure of the zone press is causing numerous errors by the opposition. It had to happen, I guess, Clarkie bombs in 3 three pointers (5/18 from the floor?) and we hold the ball for the remaining 3 minutes. A good effort, especially since no one fired up in offence, and both Scott B-W and Phil failed to score.

Clarkie 16, Tim, Marco 7, Carey 4, Matt 2.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 24/8)

Uni 63 drew with Sandringham 63

Allow me to set the scene. Sandy are undefeated after 18 rounds. Mark Carroll does a great defensive job on their stud who fouls out. We play steady basketball in the second half to lead by 9 with under two minutes to play. We give up possession 4 times inside the last minute. We lead by 2 with 4 seconds left and have possession on the side, centre court. We throw the ball to the opposition who make a lay up and are quite jubilant at drawing the game. I'm not depressed, but it's lucky for our cat that we don't have a cat. I feel better after 24 hours of moping.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 5/9)

Uni 48 d. Cannons 45

A tough win, in adversity, to finish the minor round and secure second place (only half a win out from top position). A rather unpleasant game! Kicking, tripping, shoving and head locks don't make for an enjoyable game (and that was just trying to get a shot during our warm up - Ed) Anyway, we kept our cool and a superb last 4 minutes gave us a satisfying result. A bit more protection from the referees like two of their players being sent off (the ref's supervisor was in attendance) would have given us an easier victory. Anyway, these Greek thugs should be banned (perhaps send them home on the same boat as those Chinese refs, eh Phil? - Ed.) Score after an 'even' first half 25-24. Marco played a great game and scored some superb buckets with his driving and unpredictable manoeuvring close to the basket. Just as well, because none of the big men was doing too much. Fortunately our zone press yielded numerous opportunities with Clarkie, Dieter, Carey, Marco and Matt all working effectively. Trailing 39-40 with 4 minutes to go, we popped in 2 buckets to lead 43-40. They promptly answered with 2 points but Clarkie delivered the coup de grace with a great three pointer. They got 2 back but we patiently held the ball in offence and eventually

Phil passed to Marco for a simple shot under the hoop. A gutsy team effort.

Marco 18, Clarkie 13, Matt 6, Dieter 5, Carey 4, Phil 2.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 7/9)

Bulleen 55 d. Uni 54

Remember last game, when I would've strangled my cat if I had one, but I didn't so I couldn't? Well, after this game I went out and bought one. We led all game, let them get level in the dying minutes, let them get ahead by two, got level off a J.C. steal, went two points up off a Jane lay up with 8 seconds left, celebrated for four seconds, watched them shoot a three pointer and win the game, stopped celebrating. I shouldn't get too excited about it I suppose - I mean it only meant missing out on the finals. Not like it was important or anything. Well, I took it at least as well as Coops, who asked to borrow my cat when I was finished with it.

CYMS A Grade Men (Sun. 4/9)

Uni 115 d. Scrunters 76

Awesome performance, especially Riq and J.C. in offence. I think that's enough about this game. See how easy writing reports is.

CYMS A Grade Women (Sun. 11/9)

Uni 38 d. Monash 29

Robert stayed around to watch this game because he wanted to see what this team of 5 spastic "old girl" players could do to a rather despondent Monash team recently beaten into second place at IV. Why only five? Well, Melbourne had beaten Collingwood for a place in the preliminary final that afternoon, so there was no way we were going to Lesley or Bernadette at a 6.30 game (there's always such a good excuse for this team!) Monash only had 5 as well, but as four of these made Spike look the size of John Campbell (ha, ha, ha, bring a cushion next Wednesday - Ed.) we were in for an uncomfortable game. The first half was a thrilling affair and we led 16-14 at the change. Burnsy and Xmas Carroll were asleep on the bench as no one score for the last 8 minutes of the half, and even Robert had resorted to chatting to Clarkie (major) and Mal about Adrian's legs on the sideline. The second half saw little change except two of their girls fouled off near the end and we won. Annette and Carmel were devastating inside against these monsters and Spike did little harm to her claim as the worst shooting forward at Melbourne Uni (except Pendles). Tracy was calm in the land of the giants and Gillian only suffered 4 post IV asthma attacks for the entire duration. By the way, Robert, Clarkie and Mal left early...

Spike 15, Carmel 10, Annette 8, Gillian 5, Tracy 3 assists.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 12/9) Semi Final

Uni 57 d. Diamonds 48

A very good performance with everyone contributing. What more can

one say? Coach Phil said "Play like you normally play. We go for it, run and gun. Take the shot if you're in a good position. That's how we've played all season. Treat it like a regular game." In a very non-Uni performance, it's a lead all the way win! As our one supporter said, "You controlled the game in the first half (No, we dominated!) and the second half was evenly contested." This always promised to be an interesting encounter between the 2 highest scoring teams in the grade. Our plan to play their big gunner in a virtual man to man, denial position and hand in the passing lane, and the other 4 defenders to box up. We hit from the start with a zone press, and after an even first four minutes broke away with some excellent fast breaks - good technique indeed, with good running to get three men up on many breaks. Switching the guards maintained the pressure. Clarkie (11 points) had a great first half. Tim a great effort on the boards with everyone helping out. Further pressure before half time saw us lead 28-17 at the break. Well, you shouldn't be losing a game from this position, but the opposition weren't about to retire gracefully. After scoring first in the half we led by 9 or 7 points until 7 minutes to go. Suddenly their gun shooter sinks a couple of shots from the back of the bleachers, we turn over the ball 3 times and one hopeless ref makes 3 poor calls. Colliewobbles - in retrospect, no, but a worry at the time. They call a time out and from the re-start score to narrow the margin to 3 points. Four minutes to go, Phil calls a time out, calms his players down and asks for the set offence. Oh so beautiful, pass to Matt in the low post, cuts run inside, hand off to Marco and whoosh straight through. Three minutes of great D are rewarded by whoosh (Scottie from the foul line), whoosh (Marco deep from the left 45) and whoosh (Clarkie to Carey for a gutsy layup). An 11 point lead - they score with 10 seconds to play, but who cares! A gutsy team effort with outstanding defence by the guards.

Clarkie 16 Carey 10 Marco 8 Dieter Matt 6 Scott Phil 4 Tim 3

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 14/9)

Uni 63 d. Kilsyth 40

Well, with most of the pressure off us now that a finals appearance was about as likely as Phil Beart handing in a short match report, we were free to relax and slaughter a team which had beaten us the first time round when it probably counted. We lead 18-4 after 6 minutes and by 30 points at half time. In the second half we coasted along to win by 23 in the end. The team dinner the previous evening was no doubt a major factor influencing our win, as was the lack of skill demonstrated by our opposition. Unfortunately John Dillon got a bit over-motivated at the dinner and was sent off, reported, found guilty and shot. Unfortunately for J.D. the other guy decided to tell the truth at the tribunal ("I head butted him then he punched me, then we had a fight.") Nice one, Einstein. They both got 6 weeks.

## MBA B Grade (Mon. 19/9) GRAND FINAL

Uni 71 d. Elwood 59

A successful end to a consistent season with the team winning its last five minor round games. Elwood scraped into the final four in the last game, but strangely they were the only team to beat us in the second round and troubled us in the first. One of the opposition was heard to say the odds on them winning were about 16/1, but we were taking the game very seriously. The opposition had one star player and our game plan was to play a box and one in defence, and to double team if possible. In offence, to run and gun as usual. From the start it was straight into the zone press, and with Dieter, Clarkie and Marco making some aggressive interceptions we quickly went to a 14-4 lead. Everything was great until coach made three substitutions at the 5 minute mark and attempted to steady the game down by removing the press and dropping straight back to a 2-1-2 zone. We lost our momentum and Elwood took over. We were doing abysmally on the boards at both ends - 3 rebounds in the first half! At the 13 minute mark we trailed 25-16, Phil called a time out, revved the boys up and the zone press was back on. Marco and Clarkie promptly made a couple of interceptions, and Phil made two buckets inside. At least we were fighting now, but the score line at half time (29-33) was a little flattering - we'd only played 12 minutes of ball. The second half started badly - Elwood quickly added a basket and then a 3 pointer. We had our act together now, applying a lot of effective pressure via the zone press and moving more effectively in offence. We slowly reduced the margin until at the 10 minute mark it was 40-40. Phil and Scottie left the court in foul trouble being replaced almost concurrently by Matt and Carey. Neither of the latter had played well in the first half and this was the key period of the game. Matt grabbed a couple of rebounds, made 2 buckets and a couple of interceptions : those long arms moving in redoubtable octopus like movements (!! - Ed.) Marco and Clarkie were starting to drop in buckets from everywhere (is that like raining cats and dogs? - Ed.) and Carey also got into the act. We ran our set offence 3 times and scored each time (it takes the men's firsts a whole season to accumulate those stats - Ed.) Carey also got away on a couple of fast breaks. The score line with 7 minutes to go 50-50. In hindsight the game had turned our way from the half way point. Elwood tired from the constant pressure of the press, weren't covering much territory in defence and we were becoming increasingly dominant on the boards at both ends. In a tremendous 4 minutes we made 3 interceptions and stormed forward. Marco added 2 fantastic baskets with baseline drives. Three minutes to go and we led 63-53, and the game basically ended when foul problems reduced the opposition to only 4 players. A good team effort with everyone contributing to the victory, and a great 42-26 scoreline in the second half. Marco had a huge 18 point second half. Many thanks to the 8 supporters.

Marco 23 Clarkie 18 Carey 12 Scott 6 Matt Phil 4 Dieter Tim 2

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 21/9)

Uni 115 d. Dandenong 68

I wasn't going to report on any more Div 2 games, but it's not often we win by 47 points, so I thought I would. Anyway, Graeme Jane made me promise I'd write that he threw J.C. an assist. Well he did. Awesome offensive performance as we runned and gunned our way to a 30 point lead in the first half, for the second week in a row. Dim was spectacular in offence nailing several three pointers and athletic drives. Graeme was back to his best in offence and even went tough to the basket a couple of times, probably inspired by Greg's baseline moves. Col gave us plenty of hustle on the ball, and suggested that the 115 points should be allocated evenly between the 8 players. I think it more likely that Graeme had about 30, Dim had about 25, Les had about 16 and the rest of us came along for the ride. However, I take Col's advice on matters such as these. Everyone scored 14.375.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Well, these are our last entries in the Classic Commentary competition. The finalists will appear in the next edition (i.e. after the I.V. edition). And no, we're not including anything said by Phil Lynch at the Seoul basketball, or by Mike Gibson, due to lack of space. These final quotes come from the USSR series played recently, primarily game 4...

Grahame McNaney - "They're big, tough, experienced and hard to pronounce." (the USSR team)

Grahame McNaney - "They certainly are monsters" (USSR first 5)

Bill Palmer - "Tried to get reverse English off the glass" (Gaze attempted lay up)

Bill Palmer - "There's your close range dunk" (Belostenny)

Grahame McNaney - "Gaze should take that shot from there"

Bill Palmer (in reply) - "He didn't need the invitation from you, Grahame"

Grahame McNaney - "Flat barrelled shot from Kurtinytis"

Bill Palmer - "Don't worry me about this other stuff, just show me the 3 point line and let me play" (Kurtinytis' philosophy on basketball)

Bill Palmer - "You always put the mozz on these players Grahame, let 'em shoot" (Gaze misses foul shot)

Bill Palmer - "A 7 foot 2 feller has no business fouling some one that far from the basket" (Longley fouls)

Bill Palmer - "He's not supposed to do that, he's supposed to shoot 3 pointers" (Kurtinytis makes a lay up)

Bill Palmer - "Rather presumptuous shot there" (Sibley blocked)

Grahame McNaney - "The U.S.S.S.R. will inbound."

Bill Palmer - "They want to get it down under single figures quickly" (the margin)

Bill Palmer - "One of his little casual 1 hand cross court flips, he does that exceptionally well" (Marchuleinus)

Bill Palmer - "It looks like a Christmas tree on the foul board"

Grahame McNaney - "Smythe can't take the 3 point shot, he does"

Grahame McNaney - "Smythe takes a 19 pointer" (90 foot shoot)

Well, there you have it. Finalists next edition.

ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER : Don't forget this grand event. It's on October 1 at Studley Park Receptions. Tickets (all inclusive) at \$29 students and \$4,235 for workers are available from Trevor Andrew, Kathy Kennis or Gillian Payne. Be there to get your medals and trophies. Everyone gets one....

INTERVARSITY DRIBBLING BALLS : Out soon, the full story of the women's classic victory, Plait-man and more....