

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 16 NO. 10

9/12/88

Well, this is probably the last Dribbling Balls for the year. There will be a short pause while tears subside.... That's better. We finish off with the final of the Classic Commentary Competition. We were also going to have a competition to think of a prize for the classic commentary competition, but I couldn't think of a prize for it. Oh well...

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 30/11)

Uni 76 d. Auburn 70

This game was against a pack of Melbourne juniors, and we gave them a lesson or two in basketball. The first lesson was how to stuff up in offence, the second was how to not play any defence and the third was how to be behind 31-41 at half time. It was lucky Graeme and Dim were firing in offence with 12 and 8 points respectfully for the half or we could have gone home then and there. In the second half it was apparent that those young Auburn whipper snappers hadn't paid much attention to our lessons as they continued to lead by 9 or so for the first 15 minutes of the second half. However, all was not lost as we staged a remarkable come back, the sort that we only produce during the summer when nothing hinges on the game. Graeme and Greg scored at will inside while J.C. slotted assists in here, there and everywhere and with the whole team lifting in defence we raced away in the final 5 minutes to turn a 9 point deficit into a 6 point win, Simon icing it with a lay up 18 seconds from the finish. A good win in front of a large spectator contingent, all our supporters on one side, the youngsters' parents on the other. I hope these kids don't grow up.

Graeme 26, Greg 13, J.C. 12, Dim 12.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 4/11)

Oakleigh 80 d. Uni 63

With out usual quota of 5 players for Sunday night (we would have had six but Chris Morrey was otherwise engaged!) we were expecting our usual close game against Wolves. We got it for about a half or so, then we let them win easily. Highlights included the return of John Swaartz after knee and exam problems. He dominated the offence in both halves, especially in the open court on the break. Greg played a good first half and Bowlesy played a top game on the boards for a full 40 minutes. Unfortunately we missed a few too many baskets to be taken seriously by the opposition.

Swaartz 25, J.C. 18, Bowlesy 11.

HI, I'M : Sorry, I couldn't complete the heading to this report because some one pulled the plug on my typewriter. Seriously though, it was sad to see censorship reach Carlton when Hi, I'm Gary had their gig ended in the middle of their second bracket last Friday night at Melba's. Some said it was a travesty, some said it was quality control, some said they ran out of beer. Whatever the reason, it was unfortunate that those of us who paid our hard earned \$3 to see this up and coming band didn't get to hear their full show because the owner pulled the plug in the middle of whatever that unforgettable song was. He said it was because the neighbours had complained. How ridiculous, they couldn't even see Gary's hat (trash it, son). Never mind, you get another chance to see them in two weeks, on Friday 16 December at Brunswick Tech, live (at least when they get into the

place, whether they get out that way is anybody's guess). Not only that, they have a support band at this gig, the Fabulous Pherones, or as Rolling Stone Magazine wrote... "Who?" For further details, see your local psychologist.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : This is the final of the classic commentary competition. An extinguished panel of judges has selected the best and most ridiculous comments in a number of categories. Your mission Jim, should you choose to accept it, is to pick the best comment in each category and the best overall, and submit your answers to J.C. The entry which is neatest, is nearest to the judges' choices and is attached to the largest bribe will win a fabulous prize. So go to it. Entries close soon after I get one. The categories are...

A. THE "I PREDICTED THAT" CATEGORY

This category consists of those comments that are made and almost instantaneously revealed as utterly incorrect. It provides ample evidence that commentators should not try to guess. The nominations are...

- A1: "No one will beat this Geelong side by 30 points this season" - an unnamed Sydney commentator the night before Brisbane beat Geelong by 65 points.
- A2: "That's a nice little shot, it's missed - air ball!" - Grahame McNaney on a James Bullock shot in the All Star game.
- A3: "Joe Hurst is pretty accurate - that's an air ball." Bill Palmer during the All Star game.
- A4: "Foul called on Lucas, there's no doubt about that - foul's on Bruton." - Bill Palmer in the Eastside v. Perth game.
- A5: "Dillon won't miss from there - he does." - Grahame McNaney
- A6: "Three seconds left, they'll look for one quick shot." - Brisbane commentator on Bullet's side ball at end of game up by 15 points.
- A7: "Willie won't miss it - yes he does." - Bill Palmer on a Simmons inside shot.

B. THE BIZARRE ANATOMY CATEGORY

This category focuses on the commentator's rather unusual conceptions of what the human body comprises, how many of each bit it has, and how big it is. It's a Bill Palmer speciality, he would have made a great doctor (or mad scientist). The nominations are...

- B1: "Once he got his heads and shoulders in front..." - Bill Palmer in the Feb 21 Perth vs. Westside game.
- B2: "He's a well articulated man - as far as muscle tone's concerned." - Bill Palmer on James Bullock
- B3: "Four foot long fingernail shot, that one." - Bill Palmer

- B4: "He needed another three feet on his arms." - Bill Palmer as Jerry Dennard's finger roll falls short.
- B5: "His hand would be up there another foot." - Bill Palmer on a Willie Simmons skyhook.
- B6: "Talk about 8 foot fingers." - Bill Palmer on an alley oop to Marc Ridlen
- B7: "The adrenaline starts pumping and the blood goes into your ears." - Bill Palmer on the up tempo game.
- B8: "A scramble of arms and legs and things like that." - Grahame McNaney during a holding foul on David Grahame

C. THE 9 OUT OF 10 FOR ARITHMETIC CATEGORY

This category proves that it's not always easy to add up and subtract in the heat of the moment, or the cold hard light of day in some cases. I'm glad Grahame McNaney isn't my accountant. The nominations are...

- C1: "It's a one point game, 94-91." - Graeme McNaney
- C2: "They've got to get the margin back under single figures." - Grahame McNaney as Perth trails North Melbourne at half time.
- C3: Grahame McNaney - "Margin 14, no, 38-26, margin 12."  
Bill Palmer - "Arithmetic zero."
- C4: "The U.S.S.S.R. will inbound." - Grahame McNaney on a Soviet side ball.

D. THE "I NEVER EVER EVER EXAGGERATE" CATEGORY

In this category we note commentators' tendencies to go a little over the top on some occasions. Could also be called the "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times..." category. The nominations are...

- D1: "He should have tapped that in - he was about 12 feet above the ring." - Bill Palmer's comment on James Bullock
- D2: "I don't go that far on my holidays" - Graeme McNaney on a very long three pointer by Andrew Gaze.
- D3: "Still no score, could be the lowest scoring game in NBL history." - Brisbane's Glen Palmer (no relation) after 1 minute of play.
- D4: "Three on two, they practise it a million times at training." - Bill Palmer on a North Melbourne fast break.

E. THE LEAPY LEADER FLYING FRAP DOODLE CATEGORY

This category is inspired by Bill Palmer's late night coverage of the N.B.A. several years ago, when Norm "Rocket Heels" Nixon produced a "flying frap doodle", Moses Malone showed us his "really forte" and Dr. J. was "...Thirty-three and in the twilight of his career. Wish I could do that when I was 33. Matter of fact, I wish I was 33." We have classic Palmer philosophy and terminology. The nominations are...

- E1: "That's what you call an up in the air and what do I do now mum?"  
- Bill Palmer on a nowhere to go move.
- E2: "It's the reverse telescope - the more you think about it the further away it gets" - Bill Palmer on the philosophy of foul shooting.
- E3: "Uses a little reversed English off the glass." - Bill Palmer on a Carfino lay up.
- E4: "Threw up a little frap doodle that time." - Grahame McNaney on an Al Green lay up in the All Star game.
- E5: "I don't know how to describe that one - blah blah blah." - Bill Palmer on a Tim Dillon basket.

F. THE "DID HE REALLY SAY THAT?" CATEGORY

Sometimes you just can't believe a commentator has really said something. You're left wondering if they said it on purpose, or perhaps don't ever listen to what comes out of their mouths. It was again inspired by the N.B.A. coverage where we had the U.S. commentator inform us that "He's a fine young assistant coach, and it wouldn't be surprising if he got a head job soon." This category proves our Australian commentators are right up to that standard. The nominations are...

- F1: "Like father like son, his father had a similar head job" - Lyn Parnell on the Scott Ninnis crew cut, Adelaide vs Eastside.
- F2: "He won't have the speed to stick with Gaze but he'll have the quickness" - Bill Palmer on Dave Nelson's defence.
- F3: "Hey, I'm not that stupid." - Bill Palmer refuses to pick a winner
- F4: "You give him a little head and body fake." - Bill Palmer on offensive moves in the North Melbourne v. Sydney game.
- F5: "Eastside beating themselves a bit" - Bill Palmer on a turnover.
- F6: "They're big, tough, experienced and hard to pronounce." - Grahame McNaney on the Soviet team.
- F7: "No score in this match yet. " - Grahame McNaney 10 seconds into the All Star game.
- F8: "There's the cream of the NBL on display." Grahame McNaney as the cameras pan across the cheer leaders.

### G. THE CLASSIC EXCHANGES CATEGORY

Often one commentator realizes his partner in the booth really is a prize nerd. Sometimes he will even let the audience in on the secret. This category documents the classic repartee and put downs. The nominations are...

G1: Bill Palmer - "You stand between your man and the ball when the shot goes up."

Grahame McNaney - "They have to block out more too."

Bill Palmer - "That's what I was describing - succinct as always Grahame"

G2: Grahame McNaney - "Little easy shot."

Bill Palmer - "That wasn't an easy shot."

G3: Grahame McNaney - "Gaze should take the shot from there."

Bill Palmer - "He didn't need the invitation from you, Grahame"

### H. THE 50 CENTS EACH WAY CATEGORY

In some ways, this category is the opposite of the "I Predicted That" category. In this case, the commentator admits he hasn't got a clue about what's going on or what's going to happen next, but feels the need to cover all the bases anyway. The nominations are...

H1: "I think 8 points will be enough, but don't write off Perth." - Grahame McNaney picks a winner in the Eastside v Perth game.

H2: "You can almost guarantee there's a fair chance these'll go in." - Grahame McNaney on Al Green at the foul line.

H3: "He's had a good game - he hasn't done much." - Bill Palmer on Mark Griffin's contribution off the bench for North Melbourne.

H4: "That looks promising - it isn't - it is - it is." - Bill Palmer on a Tiny Pinder move to the hoop.

Well, there you have the nominations, a worthy collection if ever I saw one. All you need to do now is pick the best in each category, and the year's overall classic comment from all the nominations, fill in the entry form and return it to J.C. or some one who can forward it, and you'll be in the running for a fabulous prize of at least a bottle of champagne and perhaps a donation from our wonderful new club sponsor Denton's (How about it Mr. S. - Got any slightly (shop) soiled sheets or pillow cases lying around? It's got to be worth another gratuitous plug or seventeen.) Entries close early in 1989, so get cracking. There's a limit of one entry per person, because I can't be bothered processing any more. Members of the judging panel are not eligible to win, and are probably too stupid to do so anyway, however their families can enter and all bribes are gratefully accepted.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

Simply fill in your name (or that of another person you wish to embarrass), then for each category nominate the number of the comment you thought was the best/worst/funniest/most entertaining in that category, and the comment you thought was the best overall.

NAME :

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF THE BEST COMMENT</u>
A.	
B.	
C.	
D.	
E.	
F.	
G.	
H.	

BEST COMMENT OVER ALL CATEGORIES (CATEGORY AND NUMBER E.G. C8) :