

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 17 NO. 1

16/1/89

What better way to start off a new year than with some old match reports from last year. The first one is a little number from Matt "The Lesser" Scholes, who was forced to write this by Bowlesy, for reasons which will become obvious when you read the list of scorers...

V.B.A. DIV. 3 (Wed. 16/11/88)

Melbourne 67 d. Uni 39

As warm up began it became obvious that this was going to be a game of different styles. Uni : tall, strong, undermanned and unorganized, Melbourne : fast, small, skilled and properly organized. Uni had five players, four of whom usually play inside. The Tigers had a bench that stretched from Albert Park to St. Kilda Beach, of which only two could play inside. FF24 slammed a few in the warm up, and the Tigers began to get worried, they knew they were in for a tough, physical game. They were wrong. From the opening tip off the Tigers shot sweetly and with Haggis playing a lone hand in the guard spot, we had difficulty bringing up the ball. Dieter turned up just before half time to give Haggis a hand, but with the score being 15-35 things weren't looking too good. After half time the whole team lifted (knowing that they could now be benched). Geoff Bowles was on fire (and with the amount of alcohol he consumed at that pub crawl he might have burnt for a week - Ed.) scoring 12 awesome points, including one of his famous coast to coasts through the opposition (without charging!). The Tigers only increased their lead by 8 points, hopefully because of our harder work but probably because they were all trying to win the most amazing drive award.

FF24 17, Haggis 9, Scholes The Lesser 4, Moses 4, Dieter 3, Mick Scales 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 11/12)

Uni 70 d. Jetz (2) 65

Last game of the Sunday night competition for 1988 and we play Simon B-G's team, who have beaten us the last couple of times we played, but that's O.K., because like Sandy says, we never beat any Jetz teams. Well, in the first half things go according to plan, with Simon shooting the lights out for 13 points and us shooting like the lights were out, trailing by 10 or so for most of the half. Rick managed 10 good points inside and Skip hit 7 including a left handed tip in, but we trailed 30-39 at half time. We soon extended that deficit to 12 points and maintained it for about 10 minutes. However, the writing was on the wall as Rig's hair brained scheme of rotating Skippy and Tree in a box and one defence on Simon payed off. We shut their offence down adequately and with Rig working well inside for 11 more points, Tony Lewis scoring three baskets off the break and J.C. going on a shooting spree and making 6 three pointers for the half we romped back to level the scores and draw away to a comfortable seven point lead with two minutes to play, eventually winning by 5 points. Must make mention of Bowlesy's three shot intentional foul on Simon, it wasn't his fault, it was a wimp's call. Simon could still take the shots. A good effort without Les, Mungus, Swaartz, Morrey and Scholes The Greater.

J.C. 24 (7 x 3 ptrs), Rick 21, Tony 9, Skippy 9, FF24 6, Tree 1.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 14/12)

Uni 60 d. Werribee 46

Great game this one, although the fights were marred by the occasional patches of basketball that broke out. In the first half we were a bit taken aback by the aggressive nature of our young opponents, who apparently believed that the best way to gain possession of the ball was to beat up on whoever had it, us, the refs, their own team mates, it didn't seem to matter much. Unfortunately for us, the one referee had the same balanced view of the world as Idi Amin, while the other was still waiting on a graduate from the Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School (or maybe he was waiting to enrol, I'm not sure). Anyway, Graeme survived the pummeling long enough to hit 14 points in the first half as we played softly enough to lead 27-25 at half time. In the second half we switched defence to the self preservation zone and comfortably led for most of the half by between 10 and 16 points. J.C. hit some timely 3 pointers and had 14 points for the half, and Graeme continued to dominate the boards and score freely with 10 more points. Haggis got in the right place and scored a couple of times, Greg and Bowlesy boarded well in defence and we won comfortably in the end without too much threat to life and limb. We now have about a seven game winning streak going in this competition.

Graeme 24, J.C. 18 (3 x 3 ptrs), Haggis 7, SBG 6, FF24 3, Greg 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 15/1)

Uni 60 d. Scrunters 49

The team was a little rusty after the long break, especially Mungus and Swaartz who declined to attend. However, with David Crombie proving a more than adequate fill in for both these players we cruised into the first half with 5 players. 1989 looked like being another good year as we quickly established a 10-4 deficit, but somewhere along the way we got lost and caught up. In fact by half time we'd caught up so much we were in front 31-25. Greg "Sleepy" Scholes made some amazing "Cooper loops" and flying frap doodle finger rolls for an impressive 10 points for the half and Rug also shot a few good baskets. In the second half the pressure was on, and we surprised a vast army of our very athletic supporters by somehow grabbing a lead of 10 points, stretched to 16 and finally 20 with only 4 minutes left to play. As J.C. said at the time out, it would be pretty difficult to throw away a lead of that size in 4 minutes, but we gave it our best shot, by throwing the ball to the opposition every time we gained possession. The final result was sealed by and awesome reverse lay up from David and we fell in by 11 points. A few more wins of this size and we could get our percentage back to 100. Good second halves from Rug and Sleepy again (why Sleepy? Bowlesy and I thought it was cute while watching the NBA) and Bowlesy played a fine game on the boards.

Riq 20, Greg 18, J.C. 11, Bowlesy 7, David 4.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 18/1)

Kilsyth 55 d. Uni 54

Despite the rather ominous look of the score line, we did not blow a 10 point lead to lose by a point in the dying seconds of the game. In fact, we always looked a good chance to lose by about 10, especially when we were down by 10 late in the second half. So in some ways, this was a reasonable effort. In a tight first half we held our own against opponents whose only advantages were height, speed, youth, ability and enthusiasm. FF24 was terrific on the boards, but without Graeme and Greg we didn't have the height rather we had the (Mal) shortness. Warwick had held his starting five spot after his O.S. tour and was

next tallest, then came the 3 guards in the mosquito fleet (but not of foot). Haggis shot well from the corner during the first half and J.C. hit a three pointer on the bell in the first half to tie the game 27-27 at the break. In the second half we got tired of all this running and jumping and relied more on shooting touch (which apparently departed at half time on the same bus as our shot selection) and managed to maintain a comfortable deficit. When the game was all but over, some good hustle from Col and J.C. got us back into the game with a number of good chances to take the lead inside the last minute but missed the shots. Not that we knew that it was the last minute because the clock hadn't worked for the entire second half. In fact, we had possession from the side with (apparently) 9 seconds left, trailing by one point, but didn't get off a shot. A reasonable first game back after the break.

J.C. 17 (3x3 pointers), Bowlesy 12, Haggis 10, Mal 9, Col 6.

SWAN HILL : The annual New Year's tournament at Swan Hill proved to be its usual raging success. I'm still waiting for the definitive report to be delivered, hopefully without those dreadful limericks from last year. This report may answer such important questions as :

- Was the men's C grade team on drugs?
- Where was Michelle J. all new year's eve?
- Did Nick Coco Cohen fail Tent Erection 101?
- Who were all those women in that C grade team wearing UNSW tops?
- Where did Susan Mountford learn all that music trivia?
- Who recorded Yellow River?
- Why did the deviant cross the road?
- Where did Ian Pendlebury pick up that sporty little number?
- What has Mick Johnson learnt in 6 years at Uni?
- Will the men ever win a game in A Reserve?

Anyone knowing the answers to the above questions may like to jot them down in the form of a tournament report and give it to the Editor, who'll be happy to punctuate it and correct the spelling.

DRIBBLING BALLS : In case you hadn't noticed, you are now reading Dribbling Balls, the official organ (?) of the Melbourne University Basketball Club. Now, I was somewhat disturbed the other day to have Ian Pendlebury ask me "Who writes Dribbling Balls?". I was disturbed for a number of reasons, (a) because it's a congenital predisposition, (b) because I'm not as famous as I thought I was, and (c) because it should be bloody obvious. Dribbling Balls is supposed to be written by all you guys who play in various teams on various nights, or at tournaments or whatever. Please write something down and give it to me for publication, otherwise you are doomed to another year of V.B.A. Div. 2 and C.Y.M.S. Men's Championship match reports.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Some of you may have missed the Classic Commentary entry form that was around just before Christmas. Well, at the risk of felling a few more trees and blowing the club photocopy budget in the first month of the year, here it is again.

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. The prize consists of two brand new pillows courtesy of our major sponsor, DENTON'S (the only company you need in bed) and a bottle of champagne courtesy of my fridge (the only company you need when the cricket's on the telly). So go to it. Entries close soon after I get one, or on 31 January, whichever comes first. The entry form is on page 8 of this edition of Dribbling Balls. Hand drawn facsimiles are acceptable in South Australia. 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 (over the page) and return it to J.C. or some one who can forward it, and you'll be in the running for fabulous prizes like a bottle of champagne and two brand new teeth proof pillows from our wonderful new club sponsor Denton's. Entries close on 31 January 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 (i.e. me) are not eligible to win, and are probably too stupid to do so anyway, however their families can enter and all bribes are gratefully expected.

The entry form appears over the page...

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) :