

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well, here it is. The moment you've all been waiting for. Another Dribbling Balls. Featured in this edition is the result of the Classic Commentary Competition if anybody's interested, which judging by the typically pathetic response, few people are. Well, see if I care. As soon as I find my dummy I'm going to sit in the corner and suck it...

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 25/1)

Uni 59 d. Hawthorn 42

As the summer silly season draws rapidly to a close we get a chance to boost our record with a game against the Div 3 premiers of last season. A steady if somewhat unspectacular first half saw us coast along to a comfortable half time lead 25-22, without doing too much work. In the second half Col and Graeme fired up a bit in offence and we steadily increased the lead and in a manner most unbecoming a university side won going away at the end. We are somewhere in the four of this no count competition.

Col 22, Graeme 19, Greg 8.

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

Uni 85 d. Varpas 71

Last time we played Varpas in the winter competition we embarrassed ourselves by losing, a result which didn't assist our chances of making the finals too much. With this game not counting for much we were confident of reversing that result. The first half was notable for an awesome display of offensive skill from Dim, who celebrated his return to Wednesday nights by banging in 22 points for the first half. Offence was a simple matter of bringing the ball down the court and giving it to Dim and watching him score off a drive, a jump shot, a rebound or a three pointer. A great performance. Graeme chipped in with 11 points and Col 7 as we led 44-40 at half time, and no, we didn't bother playing any defence. In the second half Henry made Dim give some of the others a go, which allowed Graeme to sweep the boards and collect 13 for the half, and Col to frap doodle his way through the key for 10 points worth of no jump lay ups. We ended up winning by 14 with the result never really in too much doubt.

Dim 26 (3x3 ptrs), Graeme 24, Col 17, J.C. 8, Greg 6, Mal 4.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 5/2)

Uni 92 d. Waverley Falcons 46

Falcons are a new team in A grade, but they regularly beat us on tournaments, so we were a little wary of them here. As it turned out there was no need to worry. In the first half we played steady zone defence and let Mungus carry the bulk of the scoring load with 11 for the half as we led 35-20 at the break. After half time we went into run and gun mode with Swaartz, Ruq and Mungus running and gunning riot in offence, contributing 14, 16 and 11 points respectively as we scored 57 for the half to put the result well beyond doubt with a long way to go. Looks like our drive to just miss out on playoffs is going well, as usual.

Riq 24, Swaartz 22, Mungus 22, J.C. 12, Greg 9, Bowlesy 3.

UNDER 20 STATE TEAM : Apparently there is one of these things, and we were all very pleased to see that Dimitri was invited along to the try outs for the team. It has been quite a long time since Uni had

an under 20 state representative, and even longer since we had someone under 20. No doubt this will only be the first step in a career destined for bigger things. Well done, Dim.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY COMPETITION : Well, the competition has drawn to its inevitable close, with the usual underwhelming response. I'd like to thank the seven people who submitted entries, making this one of the most successful competitions run by Dribbling Balls this year.

Before announcing the winners, it was interesting to note that through the combined talents of Graeme Jane and Adrienne Pratt, Bill Palmer was actually given a copy of the competition quotes. He has however, neglected to put in what would have been the quintessential entry. Highly disappointing, but I suppose we'll be hearing from his solicitor shortly.

Now, the results. Because it seemed like a good idea at the time, I decided to pick an extremely complex method of deciding the winners. This also meant there was less likelihood of argument since no one would understand the method used to arrive at the results. There are two winners, the first being the person who most closely matched the judge's selection (i.e. mine), and the second being the person who most closely matched the most popular selections as decided by tabulating the responses from all the entry forms. In the first instance, three points were awarded for matching my first choice for each category and one point for matching my second best choice. In the second case, three points were awarded for matching the most popular choice for each category and one point for matching the second most popular choice.

By category, the following occurred :

A. THE "I PREDICTED THAT" CATEGORY

In this category the judge's choice matched exactly popular opinion, with the top comment being :

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.

Second on the list in this category was ...

A4: "Foul called on Lucas, there's no doubt about that - foul's on Bruton." - Bill Palmer in the Eastside v. Perth game.

B. THE BIZARRE ANATOMY CATEGORY

This category again saw the judge agree with popular opinion, with 50% of people going for ...

B4: "He needed another three feet on his arms." - Bill Palmer as Jerry Dennard's finger roll falls short.

As far as second best goes, the judge went for B5, but responses were scattered one each for B2,3,6 & 7.

C. THE 9 OUT OF 10 FOR ARITHMETIC CATEGORY

This category saw the judge again matching the public on first choice, but selecting C1 rather than the more popular C2 as next best. The best was

C3: Grahame McNaney - "Margin 14, no, 38-26, margin 12."
Bill Palmer - "Arithmetic zero."

D. THE "I NEVER EVER EVER EXAGGERATE" CATEGORY

In this category there was a complete match between judge and mindless public once more. The winner was ...

D3: "Still no score, could be the lowest scoring game in NBL history."
- Brisbane's Glen Palmer (no relation) after 1 minute of play.

That comment won the category narrowly from ...

D2: "I don't go that far on my holidays" - Graeme McNaney on a very long three pointer by Andrew Gaze.

E. THE LEAPY LEADER FLYING FRAP DOODLE CATEGORY

This category saw a tie for the most popular comment between ...

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.

E5: "I don't know how to describe that one - blah blah blah." - Bill Palmer on a Tim Dillon basket.

The judge in his infinite wisdom had selected E2 from E5.

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

This category was one of the most even, and one of the most popular for providing the overall best quote. However, judge and public were not agreed on what was the best in the category. The most popular was...

F1: "Like father like son, his father had a similar head job" - Lyn Parnell on the Scott Ninnis crew cut, Adelaide vs Eastside.

narrowly from F3 and F6. The judge took a different view, selecting

F2: "He won't have the speed to stick with Gaze but he'll have the quickness" - Bill Palmer on Dave Nelson's defence.

from F6 as the next best.

G. THE CLASSIC EXCHANGES CATEGORY

There was complete polarization in this category, with 50% of people going for each of two responses. They matched the judge's choice of the best being ...

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

with a close second being...

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 this category, there was a clear winner ...

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

However, the people picked H1 as the next best while the judge went for H3.

OVERALL

There was little agreement amongst anyone for the overall classic quote, however category F was a popular source of candidates, with half the people selecting their best quote from that category. In all, there was a tie for the most popular quote overall, between F3 and G1, while the judge chose F2 as his best followed by A1. It should be noted that only Sandy Bowles matched the judge's best quote.

Anyway, to the winners. Competition was fierce and extremely close in both categories, however there was a clear winner in each (put that statement in the 50 cents each way category). The poor soul whose mind most closely matched that of the judge was Geoff Bowles with a score of 19 from a possible 27. Next in line were Mal with 18, Dave Morosoli 15, Woody and Mick Johnson 12 (each). The person whose mind most closely matched the popular choices (Mr. Average MUBC) was Mal Short with an incredible score of 25 from a possible 27. Mal was followed by the extremely unlucky and pipped by the last entry received Cathy Kennis with 23, Mick Johnson 20, Bowlesy 19 and Dave Morosoli 18. Others to submit entries which were so bad as to not figure in any discussion so far were Dave Liddle.

Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the non-winners. Bowlesy gets the two brand new pillows courtesy of the MUBC major sponsor, DENTON'S - THE ONLY COMPANY YOU NEED IN BED, while Mal picks up a bottle of cheap champagne I've got sitting around in my fridge.

Thanks to all those who participated in the competition and gave positive feedback (if not entries), you never know, we may get together and do it again some time.

MATCH REPORTS : I don't know why I bother asking, but would some one please write some match reports. And if anybody sees my dummy around please mail it back to me immediately.