

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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As our new major sponsor Dentons - the only company you need in bed, takes on a high profile around the club, we note with some concern the "Odd Spot" which appeared in The Age on 23 February. It stated that an English soccer club which has a bed manufacturer as their new sponsor has had six of their players become fathers in the six months since the sponsorship began. One every month. The message here should be obvious - let's be careful out there...

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 8/2)

Nunawading 70 d. Uni 66

Interested students of the game should know the background to this performance. First, we were on top of the summer ladder, and this was the last game of the season. Second, Coops told us there was a grand final next week, and if we won this game we were in, if we lost we were out. We lost. Missed the grand final playoff on percentage. Another medal down the drain. After leading for about 35 minutes we let the opposition level then score 11 points in a row to take a seemingly unassailable lead. In fact there was nothing seemingly about it, it was unassailable, despite a scoring flurry which saw us score 8 points in the last 30 seconds. Typical really. The merest mention of finals is enough to turn a winning team into the seven stooges. I hope those arrogant young shits from Nunawading play during winter because we owe them a decent kicking for a few of their cheeky comments.

J.C. 17 (4x3 ptrs) Graeme 14 Sleepy 10 Simon 8 FF24 7 Dim 6 Mal 4

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 12/2)

Uni 85 d. Hawthorn 69

This should have been a comfortable 30 point win, instead nonexistent defensive rebounding and failure to get up and down the court limited our success. With a minute of so to go in the first half things were close, but Hawthorn changed to man to man defence and we scored a quick 8 points to lead 44-31 at half time. Swaaartz with 12 points and Mungus with 11 were on target, and continued to be so in the second half as we stretched our lead to about 20, and were never really threatened from there. Well some of us were threatened by Hawthorn's dopey white yank (who fouls out more often than a young Geoff Bowles). After calling one of our well behaved point guards a little c..t, he was invited to step outside and settle his differences - none of us were going outside with him but we thought he was just about stupid enough to go on his own. Never mind, we won easily through offence.

Swaaartz 28, Mungus 21, Riq 15, Sleepy 10, J.C. 8, Bowlsey 3.

Well, I'd like to thank the CYMS B Grade men for answering the Dribbling Balls call and submitting 4 reports - all of the same game..

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 12/2)

Uni 46 d. RMIT 32

With this B Grade team not quite hitting peak performance for the best part of the current season, but still with a real chance of a finals berth, "potential" is the only word to describe the side. In this game that potential was displayed in its purest form with Andrew Jirik finally returning to that form the entire team was yearning for to pull them through to the finals. After spending the past 18 months on the sidelines (in which time he was awarded the inaugural B Grade



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women's Scorer of the Year Award) and returning to the court with a knee brace especially imported from the USA with mediocre performances as a player and coach, AJ was Sunday basketball's answer to poetry in motion. The team have always been troubled by RMIT, Sunday was hot and humid, and without a substitution things were not looking good; but a few CLASSY three pointers from Uni's \$6 million man set the mood. But let us not forget that basketball is a team sport and the other four members of this machine each contributed in their own little way. Matt scored off two superbly executed fast breaks (assists = Jirik), Moses scored six points off poorly directed three point attempts from Randall who was really out of his league from that distance (out of his mind? - Ed.) and Michael "Santiago" Lewis (the old man of the (S)tEAm) chipped in with six points. The other thirty points were scored by AJ in a frantic three point show down between himself and the elements of basketball. When asked how he felt after the game, Jirik said, "I feel like a Dentons". The game was one that will mean the start of a new era (error? - Ed.) of Melbourne Uni basketball. This win enhanced greatly the team's chance of making the four.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 12/2)

Uni 46 d. RMIT 32

RMIT has proved somewhat of a nemesis in the past for Melb Uni sides, however this trend was to be reversed during the course of this game. The game was dominated throughout by Uni and in particular by one player - Mick Lewis. He was able to recapture some of the form that has eluded him in the season thus far. Mick kicked off his scoring rampage with 4 three pointers in the first 5 minutes of the game. This display of dynamic scoring resulted in some close checking by RMIT players, which proved futile, as by this stage Mick was on fire. Mick, being the unselfish player that he is, was using his bullet like passes to bring the bigger players in the team into the game (God knows someone has to do it!!). Mick even managed a couple of strong drives to the basket in the second half, a trait for which he is not normally known, preferring instead to sink the three pointers and occasionally pass off to someone inside. Late in the match, Mick pulled off the shot of the match, a right handed hook shot over two RMIT opponents. This report may appear to some people to be a bit slanted towards one player, but that player was by far the best player on the court that night and it only seemed fair to acknowledge the fine game that he played.

Mick Lewis - most of the points, Rest of the team - the balance.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 12/2)

Uni 46 d. RMIT 32

As an impartial observer at this game I have noticed that there are various differing match reports floating around, and quite frankly, it disgusts me to see Dribbling Balls being used as a vehicle for ego tripping by contributing authors (what else do reckon it's for? - Ed.) So to set the record straight, here is an accurate (more or less) account of the game, and I can tell you the two words which will from now on strike fear into the hearts of RMIT players everywhere. Those two words are "STEVE RANDALL". His dominance on the boards, in scoring and in defence, had the small but enthusiastic crowd of about 3 cheering every play. The game started slowly, no score either way for 4 minutes, until a big inside move from Steve saw the first score on the board, and from then on Uni never looked like losing. Mick Lewis, Scholes the Lesser and Andrew Jirik did their bit, but it was the amazing teamwork inside between Steve and Dave "Moses" Morosoli which



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determined the outcome of this game. Their passing was extraordinary, almost psychic, and baskets flowed freely to leave Uni leading 21-13 at half time. The guards made a minor appearance in the second half, hitting a few baskets, but their efforts were overshadowed by the outstanding form of the two big guys, with Steve in particular doing an awesome job, rejecting shots, rebounding, and even making the occasional steal. Highlights were Moses chipping in with a timely three pointer, and a Clayton's pass from Andrew (that's the pass you end up with when you've actually taken a shot) which was taken by Steve under the basket for a neat little reverse lay up. I only regret that the two missing wing players (they know who they are) were not there to see what can be done by passing into the key. It's a pity also that stats were not kept in this game to give an honest indication of the effect the two big guys had on this match.

Steve 18, Moses 17, Others 11.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 12/2)

Uni 46 d. RMIT 32

Just for something completely different, a match report from Sunday night B grade. This was a game played in the style basketball should be, big men dominating on the boards, scoring freely and displaying dazzling ball skills whilst the little guys (guards I think they're called) run around chasing the other team's little guys. Seriously though, this was a pleasing (surprising?) return to form for the team, bringing up our first win in as many weeks. RMIT being a team that has bothered (read beaten) us in recent times, and Uni having had very little success lately. The case was a show case of inside play with Steve Randall and David "Moses" Morosoli working like a well tuned machine, rebounding at both ends of the court, running the ball into offence and leaving the RMIT defence staggered. So great was their influence on this game that they combined for a total of 35 points, enough to beat the opposition on their own (who says you need little guys?). I should mention, I suppose (under risk of a player walk out) the contribution of the other team members, Mick "3 point" Lewis, Andrew Jirik and Matt "The Lesser" Scholes, without whose help we would only have had two players and couldn't have started the game. On a parting note, just let me warn you against accepting imitation match reports, this is the definitive account of an outstanding game.

Steve Randall 18, Moses Morosoli 17, The Others - the rest.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 15/2)

Uni 70 d. Hawthorn 58

This was the big playoff for third and fourth of the summer season and we were fired up. Sort of. Well, not really. With J.C. bombing 11 points in the first 5 minutes, including three 3 pointers we raced away to a 24-10 lead. From there we coasted into half time, allowing Hawks to narrow the gap to 4 at one stage before settling on a 36-30 half time score line. Graeme had picked up the scoring slack with 14 for the first half and continued the same way in the second half. We maintained about a 4 or 5 point lead for most of the half, despite some physical pressure from the Hawk footballers. Bowlesy was nearly crushed at one stage and Col was uppercut but in the end we stretched the lead to a comfortable 12 at the final buzzer. Good effort from Sleepy Scholes on the boards deserves a mention.

Graeme 27, J.C. 15 (3x3 ptrs) Col 9, FF24 8, Dim 6 Greg 3, SBG 2.



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C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 19/2)

Jetz (1) 64 d. Uni 63

Asked Riq for a big game here and he gave us one. We trailed 32-36 at half time with Riq having 16 of our 32 points. In the second half we stayed close, got level, then led by 6 with 3 minutes left. A couple of minutes, a couple of missed baskets by us and a couple of three pointers by them later we lost by a point. They froze the ball for the last 50 seconds, during which time we committed about 30 unintentional fouls but failed to regain possession. Good game from Sleepy Scholes on the boards and in offence. The real reason we lost? As Sandy says, Uni never beats Jetz.

Riq 27, Sleepy 15, Mungus 14, Swaaartz 8.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 22/2)

Uni 36 d. Eltham 27

Breathe a sigh of relief avid DB readers (how are you anyway Bowlesy? My ankle is coming along nicely thank you), for this match report is unconditionally guaranteed to contain no "J.C."s, no "Mungus"s ("Mungi"?), and most certainly not a "Swaaarrrrttttzzzz" of any colour or texture. You see, this is a story of the women's firsts, where "frap doodles" don't exist and "high five" refers only to Carmel's foul/game average. Anyway, let me introduce the team - there's Bernie, Gill, Carmel, Fran, Mrs. Burns, new/old addition Trish Canny and new addition Sally Bickerton, constituting in total 4 small forwards and 3 guards. Last week, with a slightly different group of players, we went down to Eltham in the last round of the meaningless Summer competition and finished an uninspiring fourteenth out of twenty teams. This week saw a new team take the court and defeat Eltham who around this time last year were safely placed in Division 1. An even first half saw us overcome a slow but encouraging start to finish locked on 14 all at the long break. The highlights of the first half had been our strength around the basket, led by Carmel, Fran and Trish, a solid zone defence patient half court offence (no, seriously readers!), and the good guard work of Gill, Bernie and Sal against Eltham's full court pressure. Unlike the first half, the second half didn't start 30 minutes late and we were soon back into it after a 5 minute rest and a drink from our Dentons combination L-shaped pillow and guzzler bottle. We started the second half reasonably and with a couple of unmatched baskets, began to look good. As is often her want, Mrs. Burns threw a spanner in the works by picking up her fourth foul about four minutes into the half. Enter Fran with the words "Spike who?" and proceed with Carmel and Trish to dominate our offence and scrap and fight for every rebound within sight. We built up a healthy lead as our defence remained tight and we cut out their high post game, forcing them to take pressured shots from outside. Despite a few minutes of "headless chook" syndrome where we let them peg back the lead to just 4 points with about 3 minutes left, we maintained an 8-10 point lead for much of the half, finally nailing them by 9 at the "shout" (normally a buzzer but the electronic scoreboard was down). Special mentions to Carmel, Fran and Trish for their contributions towards a result which appeared to be just a little bit of an upset from Eltham's point of view. Special mention also to Mrs. Burns who forced the team to practice our new M2M offence during warm-ups and then surprised everyone by running properly in the game - once (must be simple - Ed.) So welcome Sal, welcome back Trish and roll on next Wednesday, I haven't smiled this much at the end of a game since I.V.

Carmel 13, Fran 12, Trish 7, Mrs. Burns 2, Bernie 2.



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V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 22/2)

Uni 67 d. Monash 54

This was the opening game of the State Championship season, that is, it all matters from here on in. Monash is not the ideal place to open your campaign, although they have resealed the court (with a new layer of dust) and recalling our narrow victory on Dim's foul shots last year we were a little apprehensive. Things started well enough as we led 7-2 then 10-4 before trailing 10-16. A switch to zone defence saw us spark up a bit, level the scores and then pull away. J.C. was showing good touch in offence with 17 points for the half including 4 three pointers, as Mal said, "Nothing better to do, may as well shoot the ball." Dim also scored well with 9 points and we held a handy 34-26 break at half time. In the second half we held the lead at about 10 points for the entire 20 minutes through solid if somewhat unspectacular play. The Scholes Twins were our height on the boards and Matt The Lesser took a couple of nice rebounds in his debut game, Mal managed to keep his point total roughly level with his foul total with some enterprising baseline moves and Col played short forward well with some good penetrating offensive moves towards the end. However, Simon was our key player for the half, bagging 13 points including 5 from 5 at the line and four clean baseline jump shots to keep us comfortably in control. As Monash racked up the fouls the result was never in doubt and 13 points was a good margin without Messers Jane, Bowles and Dillon. One down, twenty-five to go.

J.C. 23 (6 x 3 ptrs), Simon 17, Dim 14, Col 6, Mal 4, Sleepy 3.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 26/2)

Princes Hill 80 d. Uni 75

After finding out we were in the four, we needed to lose a couple of games to ensure we just miss out on finals (preferably on percentage). This game helped. We played fair offence for bits of the first half, with Mungus shooting well and Sleepy doing a job on the offensive boards. They both had 11 points and Rig had 9, but it was in defence we showed our true prowess, allowing the opposition to score from a wide variety of moves, inside, outside, rebounds, layups, whatever you like. Pretty bad, as we trailed 46-34 at half time. At half time we practised our zone defence, two of us stood in the key and the other three went somewhere else, I don't really know where. In the second half we trailed by 7 or 8 for the vast majority of the time and it was only in the last couple of minutes we made any progress. Rig was having a good offensive game and Sleepy was taking skyscraper rebounds in offence, and with some concerted man to man defence we cut the margin to 2 points with 2 minutes to go. The opposition strength around the hoop told in the end and we lost by 5 after a better second half. Mungus fouled out and owes us all a beer as we only had 5 players, and I reckon Swaartz probably does too, he didn't even play because his sister had come back from Queensland. You work it out.

Rig 19, Sleepy 18, J.C. 17 (4 x 3 ptrs), Mungus 17, Bowlesy 4.

MAJOR SPONSOR : As you should all be aware, the Melbourne University Basketball Club has a brand new major sponsor, Dentons - the only company you need in bed. Dentons manufacture and distribute export quality pillows and bed accessories, and we are extremely happy to have them on board at MUBC.

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Double Down Pillow 30%	25.00	49.00
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Perfect Posture Pillow Large	15.00	25.00
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Single	80.00	120.00
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Back Support Cushion	12.00	22.00
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And how good are Denton's pillows? Well Geoff Bowles won the two Double Down Pillows generously donated by Denton's for the Classic Commentary Competition, and now a word from Geoff. "ZZZZzzzzz..." Thank you, Geoff.

For more information on Denton's products contact Matt Scholes, and watch Dribbling Balls, because as of the next edition we introduce a new segment, "Product of the Month", where we showcase a particular Dentons Product. Remember.....



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