

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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A couple of Mondays ago the guys were doing their track work before training and it was raining substantially. It must not pass without mention that the Scholes twins insisted on doing their running in the best conditions possible, so were observed circulating the track underneath an umbrella. I didn't believe it either. Still, what can you expect from two dedicated Dribbling Balls readers?....

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 13/3)

Powerhouse 55 d. Uni 52

Pity the poor playing coach - sometimes it all seems like all too much. This was the game of the season, tickets have been hard to get and the scalpers doing a busy trade. The second bottom team (us) and the third bottom team (them) battling it out for the third bottom position! Uni move to a useful lead at half time (30-23) largely through some good interceptions from the zone press by Marco, Rod and Scottie. The second half saw both teams scoring freely: Uni through moving the ball well and Powerhouse starting to sink long bombs. Coach gets a little worried and tries to tighten defence by removing the zone press. Clarkie sinks 3 from the bleachers, Phil misses an easy lay up and a shot inside, but eventually puts one in! Seven minutes to go and we've extended our lead to 48-37. Looks like a win! Powerhouse got even hotter, 2 minutes to go 52-52. On goes the zone press, we storm up the court, Scottie scores - basket disallowed, after the foul. You must be joking, ref! They turn it over, Phil is fouled while shooting and the ball falls to Scottie, who is fouled while shooting. Ref, what is this deathly silence? They score and after a succession of fouls and balls from the centre, stretch the lead to 55-52. Fifteen seconds to go, one shot only - Clarkie misses from the three point line. Oh well, some nights you win a few and miss a lot, other nights you miss out completely! We was crucified!

Carey 10, Rod 9, Clarkie, Scottie 8, Phil, Tim 6, Marco 5.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 20/3)

Uni 39 d. Arsenal 25

Nice to finish off the season with a win, especially after the disappointment of last week. A victory over Arsenal is always a pleasure because Drajgan, Dave and Bernie all have Uni-associations. On this occasion Drajgan failed to front, presumably having a quiet night at home with Arsenal's place in the finals assured! All I can say is they need you desperately, Drajgan. Their's was a hopeless performance against a zone press; no discipline and no dribblers, which explains why Drajgan plays point guard. Anyway, our zone press threatened an impending creaming - three layup opportunities missed in the initial two minutes, but eventually the buckets rained. Marco and Scottie B-W (4/4 off the bench) added long bombs. Score at half time 26-11. Arsenal began the second half a lot more determined and organized against our 3-2 zone. Uni began the second half a little too relaxed! A couple of interceptions and it was almost a ball game. Phil steadied the troops, we pushed the ball up the court quickly and once again the opposition turned the ball over against our zone press. Great game by Tim on the boards and in the second row of the zone press (3 votes, best on ground!) Promising debut by fresher Stewart Verrier, who demonstrated great passing and dribbling skills. Sorry Drajgan, I Can't see Arsenal winning the final - my tip Mavericks



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(containing Mick Matejin) or Suez (2 professional black Americans).
Marco 10, Scott 8, Stewart, Carey 6, Tim 5, Rod, Phil 2.

Michelle and Tania were kind enough to help out Peter on the firsts' score bench last Wednesday, and used their time productively resulting in the following two match reports (including Tania's first ever Dribbling Balls contribution after only three years in the club - well done Tania) Martian Inter-galactic Inc. take up the story...

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 29/3)

Uni 81 d. Oakleigh 68

Oakleigh has this really tall guy - like he was even taller than Graeme. He hit 18 points so we decided that he should be taken out (of the game, that is). And he was!! We played great defence in the second half and claimed almost all of the boards, even the short guys beat the opposition. It was great to see a winning combination of youth and experience instead of just experience. We as people on the bench would like to send a big hello to Mr. Taylor for his support.

Graeme 27, Dim 19, Simon, J.C. 11, Scott 5, Col, Greg 4.

V.W.B.C. DIV 5 (Wed. 29/3)

Uni 36 d. MLS 26

MLS turned up in new uniforms and Michelle was scared - no one else noticed. We turned up in our new Martian shorts - and no one noticed (but I was scared - Ed.) We started with the usual boring zone defence and the score was 8-8 after 10 minutes. We played our boring 1-3-1 offence - Michelle point, Julie and Kim wings, Cathy high and Tania low. Magic Martian Moses made us move to a man to man and it worked marvelously. At half time we were up 14-11. In the second half we continued with the man to man and a 2-1-2 offence which worked sometimes. the refereeing left a lot to be desired, as usual, on both sides, and Tania was fouled out with 5 minutes to go, but this was not a problem. With Michelle's 3 pointers and Kim's drives (a frightening combination - Ed.), we stayed in front to win by 10 points. Janet came especially to score for us, even with her bung ankle (would have been difficult to come without it - Ed.)

Tania 12, Cathy 7, Michelle 6 (2x3 pointers), Julie 6, Kim 5.

C.Y.M.S. Championship Men (Sun. 2/4)

Uni 108 d. Swann 51

This was the last game of the summer regular season, and what a set up. We were fifth, equal with the fourth team but behind by six percent and they'd already won that night. To get into the finals we had to win by a margin in excess of 50 points. Of course, I didn't tell any of the players this before the game. You know what talk of finals and "must win" games does to this team. Well, it had the desired effect. Aided by the fact that Swann turned up with an average team we creamed them with solid defence and awesome fast break offence. Swaaartz had 15 points before doing his ankle 15 minutes into first half and sitting out the remainder of the game, leaving us with just the five players. No matter, Rick made 14 in the first half and we had the win sewn up at half time where we led 51-28. But could we stretch that margin out? In the second half Mungus and Rick had 14 each while Bowlesy played a great half to grab 13 points and Sleepy came out of his trance to net 8, all from tip in follow shots. We must have played some defence too, because they only scored 23 for the half, but I don't remember it. The end result, a 57 point victory and we snatch a place in the finals from the jaws of obscurity. Very



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unlike this team. Perhaps we can keep this trend going and do something else unusual, like win the finals.

Rick 28, Mungus 20, Bowlesy 17, J.C. 16 (4x3 ptrs), Swaartz 15, Sleepy 12.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 5/4)

Hawthorn 69 d. Uni 68

This was the first game of our two month stint without Graeme whose gone to America to work. At this rate, we should have played ourselves out of finals contention well and truly by the time he returns. We were third on the ladder, playing Hawthorn who were fourteenth. Say no more. After a tight first half which was dominated by the excellent form of John Dillon (playing his game for the month, we expect him to be injured sometime this week) who had 12 points from strong moves to the bucket, we led 35-32. In the second half we stretched the lead to 11 points with 9 minutes to play as Col was burning and looked like winning the game for us all by himself. Unfortunately the rest of us sat back and decided to let him try to do that and a series of three pointers from the opposition and shit box defence from us narrowed the gap quite considerably. So much in fact, that we found ourselves behind for the last 4 minutes. A good basket to Simon got us back into the hunt, and with 40 seconds to play we trailed by 4. J.C. who so far had probably put in his all round worst game for two years, finally made a long three pointer then converted a one and one and we led by a point. His man scored again and we lost. Finals teams don't lose these games. We did last year and missed the finals. Say no more.

John D 18, Col 14, J.C. 10, Dim 8, Simon 6.

C.Y.M.S. Championship Men (Sun. 9/4) SEMI FINAL

Footscray Yaks 71 d. Uni 69

Let me pose a hypothetical situation. It's an important game, a semi final and with 12 seconds left Uni leads by 2 points with possession from the centre line. We pass it in and some one goes for an open layup and misses. What happens next? Simple. While we hang our heads the opposition would take the ball down the other end and shoot a three pointer with two seconds left to win by a point. We've seen it all a thousand times before. Now, let me describe what happened in this game. It's an important game, a semi final and with 12 seconds left Yaks lead by 2 points with possession from the centre line. They pass it in and some one goes for an open layup and misses. What happens next? Simple. We take the ball down the other end, fuck up, give away the ball without even attempting a shot and lose by two points. Great games from Swaartz and Riq, and most other people as we got to 11 points up in the second half, but from there there was not much to write home about. As usual, another waste of 18 weeks of basketball.

Swartz 27, Riq 18.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : In what Joh Bjelke-Petersen may well have described as "rigged", the Melbourne University Basketball Club AGM saw the following people elected (all unopposed!!) to the committee for the next year :



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President : Judy Knight
Vice-President : Nick Wade
Treasurer : Gillian Payne
Secretary : David Liddle
Assistant Secretary : Michael Johnson
Social Secretary (Male) : Andrew Jirik
Social Secretary (Female) : Emma Addison
General Representative (Male) : David Morosoli
General Representative (Female) : Cathy Kennis
Junior Representative (Male) : David Busted
Junior Representative (Female) : Sally McMahon

These are your representatives, so hassle them if you've got a problem (like how come warm up tops cost \$5 when we get them for free?). Good luck guys, and well done to the (extremely) outgoing committee.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Yes it's back. The NBL is about to kick off for another year, which means the return of Channel 7's basketball show, which means the return of Graham McNaney and Bill Palmer's match description, which means the return of Classic Commentary. This is the segment where we pick up the best and most unbelievable comments from the coverage each week. Entries from dedicated viewers are most welcome here. So sit back and enjoy another season. The first few were from the K-Mart Classic Final between Westside and Adelaide.

"That was flat - that could have been used as an ironing board that shot" - Bill Palmer on a Darryl Martin brick.

"He'd have needed to have gone ballistic to get that" - Graham McNaney on a Bolden's attempt to catch a lob pass.

"202 on the old scale is... six seven and a half?" - Graham McNaney
"It's big" - Bill Palmer, a Martin's height was discussed.

"A little kangaroo hop stop" - Bill Palmer as Mark Bradtke travels.

"This would be the biggest crowd he's played against" - Graham McNaney comments on rookie Luke Docking.

"Three point break to Westside, they were 4 points down - an 8 point turn around - there's my maths again - a 7 point turn around" - Graham McNaney (who was actually shown last year's Dribbling Balls Classic Commentary competition which included the section on bizarre arithmetic dedicated to him. Graeme Jane showed Adrienne Pratt who showed Bill Palmer who showed Graham McNaney, and hence the above comment!)

"Bradtke misses another semi-point-blanker" - Bill Palmer

"He's the winner of the George Michael look alike contest" - Graham McNaney on Mark Bradtke's unshaven appearance.

"The fourth quarter belonged to whoever was the better team" - Bill Palmer describing a game of quarters.

Well, that's it for the start of another big NBL season of Classic Commentary. Looks to me like they're just warming up, but the potential is there for some entertaining reading. Until then...



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