

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

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The Editor apologizes for producing this edition so soon after the previous one, but we won a close game, and I thought I'd print the report before we lost the game on protest or some other clever Uni way. What a highlight...

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 1/5)

Mavericks 60 d. Uni 43

This was always going to be a difficult game because Mavericks finished in the finals last season. In the first half they showed just why, and proved too big, too strong and too talented! Score line at half time 11-36. But our wimpish effort was an object lesson for all basketballers. The game is all about competing and pressuring and endeavour, in addition to talent. We'd shown very little in all three areas (not to mention arithmetic - Ed.) and coach Phil "put the boots" into his players. You'd swear it wasn't the same game after half time. We applied a zone press and started to work, and they made a few mistakes and suddenly we realized they had only one guy who could really dribble. Suddenly turnovers were in abundance and we looked great. Impressive second half efforts by Chris, Stewart and Lonnie. Tim a consistent 4 quarter effort.

Tim, Chris, Stewart 10, Carey 7, Lonnie 4, Scott 2.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 15/5)

Country Raiders 45 d. Uni 39

You get a bit sick of playing against teams full of Uni or ex-Uni players (at least it gives you a chance of winning if the game is close near the end - Ed.) Not that I'm whingeing, mind you! The opposition, which includes Andrew Bett and Paul Burke, being short of players, recruit Trevor Andrew to play. Anyway, we started really well, getting rebounds from both ends, scoring inside and hitting from outside. Playing so well, we scarcely looked like a Uni team! After 11 minutes we lead 16-10. Raiders push their zone up, we lose our rhythm and end up playing our usual 5 minutes of bad ball. Score at half time 18-26. Second half fairly even with Uni always threatening. Tim and Chris are doing a good job on the offensive boards. We need to swing offence more, be more patient and improve shot selection (but then who doesn't?). A switch to a man to man narrows the gap but it's too late. Overall, a reasonable effort with promising performances by the two freshers, Stewart and Chris. Tim a great job on boards at both ends.

Tim 11, Scott 9, Phil, Stewart 6, Chris 5, Carey 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship Men (Sun. 21/5)

Sonics 84 d. Uni 65

This was our first game against a new team in A Grade, and consequently we were pretty confident of an easy win. Consequently we lost. The first half highlight was 15 points to J.C. from 5 three pointers, but we still trailed 28-37 at the change of ends. In the second half we let some character from the opposition stand on the wing and shoot 25 points under no pressure, to give him 42 for the game. Not surprisingly, this didn't help our chances. Riq fired in 12 for the half, J.C. made a 4 point play and Mal chipped in with some useful baskets, but we lost convincingly trying to catch up during the 4 on 4 stage at the end of the game.

J.C. 24 (7 x 3 ptrs), Riq 16, Mal 11.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 24/5)

Uni 90 d. Melbourne 87

Well, after spectacular dummy spitting performances of late, things didn't look too good as seventh place Uni (6 wins, 7 losses) took on second place Melbourne (11 wins, two losses), unless of course you were a Melbourne supporter. We were also without Col and Jack and that other guy who went overseas a while ago. What was his name? Doesn't matter. Anyway, with Scotty making a comeback and Michael Pitt debuting we had sufficient players if nothing else. The first half was good in that we played well. Dim was back in form hustling up for 9 points, Rick had 9, J.C. had 11 and Simon had 6 as the team combined well to lead 45-43 at half time. In the second half there was no need for Melbourne to worry because the game was close and we all know what happens when the game is close. But what's this? Astute coaching from Coops, baskets from Scotty, cool foul shooting from J.C. and a drive down the middle from Sleepy and we lead by 5 with only 10 seconds left and possession. A concerted effort to blow it from here failed miserably and we ran out happy 3 point winners. Highlights of the second half included 19 points for J.C., the rebounding of Scott and Rick and the fact that we won. What was that guy's name again? It'll come to me eventually.

J.C. 30 (4 x 3 ptrs), Rick 19, Dim 17, Simon, Scott 8, Greg 6.

As promised (threatened) in the last edition of Dribbling Balls, here's a ridiculous collection of old match reports from the women's firsts...

V.W.B.C. Div 2 (Wed 15/3)

Werribee d. Uni by an excessive margin

When we played in Metro Division all we ever saw was Albert Park, Wednesday after Wednesday after Wednesday. Thanks to Championship Division our whole outlook on life has changed, unfortunately though, it's for the worse. This little chapter from the book of the video of the mini-series saw us play against Werribee at Werribee in front of a Werribee crowd with the game officiated (sic) by Werribee referees (sic). We got beaten on the boards, beaten up and beaten by an awful lot of points. The only time we looked a chance was when neither team scored for the first 5 minutes. Our biggest problem was that the slightly one-sided (sic) refs got us a mite frustrated, resulting in some non-productive behaviour, viz Mrs. Burns threw a ball at the referee, Fran threw herself onto the bench, we threw a lot of bad passes, we threw up a number of poorly selected shots, I eventually threw a little remark towards the referees and they threw a tech on me. I hope we win next week.

V.W.B.C. Div 2 (Sat. 18/3)

Uni 35 d. Sunbury 27

As I was coaching this game I had little chance to actually pay much attention to it, fortunately our regional correspondent was once again there to record the details in her own particular way, so read on....

Dear Mr. R.A. Sweetten (Robert),

I was one of the lucky winners of the Fox FM double passes to watch your team play on Saturday night. It is the first competition that I have ever won on the radio, very odd though as they told me that not many people had entered. Anyway I felt so inspired by the whole experience that I wanted to write and thank you. Unfortunately,

I was a little bit late, not being sure which court the game was on, and ended up watching a little bit of the game on court one with all those lovely, dishy, strong, handsome black Americans running around and sweating and wiping their hands on their well filled shorts. Fortunately though, you found me and helped me to court two (black men? - Ed.) where your team was playing. The number of Melb Uni spectators had increased dramatically from last time by at least 2 husbands, 1 boyfriend and something called a "Dave Liddle". Despite the excitement of your game, most supporters (even Neville, and he was scoring) seemed to spend a lot of time watching the game on court one, no doubt because they had music during time-outs. Your team started well and kept going, frequently throwing the ball down the court and then throwing it in the thing with great skill and daring-do. After the game we all went out to dinner and I didn't mind being the only non-basketballer, except when you all told me about the "old club rule" which requires the woman behind the women's coach to pay for everyone on her first night out with the team.

Mrs. Burns 12 Carmel, Gill 8 Trish 7.

V.W.B.C. Div 2 (Wed 22/3)

Uni d. Kilsyth by 15 points

This was looming as a make or break game for us (oh dear - Ed.). A win would put us in good shape to make the cut, whilst a loss would make life pretty damn tough. After a short drive to Kilsyth (play today, get home tomorrow), a worried Carmel found me and pointed to something called "Brunch" on the scoresheet. I thanked her for the invitation but suggested that it would be better discussed after the game. She informed me in a somewhat humourless fashion that this girl was (fanfare please) "Rmerrycan"!!!! Big deal, we always play better when we shouldn't. And didn't we just. Tight, work your heart out zone defence and well executed offence sees us up by 5 at the end of the half, as Trish and Carmel had shot well, Gill and Bernie had controlled our offence, Spike had worked hard at post and Fran had come off the bench to give some offensive spark. At the start of the second half we were up by 15, because this girl called "Brunch" was being a trendy little import and playing in bike shorts, and you can't do that in Women's Championship can you dear? Although we died for a little while (read as 10 minutes) against their 1-3-1 defence, our defence stayed tight, and we were never fewer than six points up. Everyone contributed in the second half, especially Sal who although quiet in the first half, came off the bench and nailed 3 telling baskets. Admittedly the 10 points was a help, but this is probably the best performance in a crucial game that I have seen. After the game we celebrated for a while at some awful suburban hotel and then went home, poorer but drunker.

V.W.B.C. Div 2 (Wed 5/4)

Melb Uni 36 d. Dandenongdenongdenongdenong 31

Last Championship season Dandenong (-nong-nong-nong-nong - Ed.) beat us in the grand final by 2 points, but this played no part in our pre-game motivation because after all, we got lovely trophies and they got awful T-Shirts and cheap looking glasses (of the drinking variety). We started off well, faded a bit but finished OK after a couple of baskets from Sal, to be 20-12 up at half time. Scoring was evenly spread, and our rebounding was pretty good, especially by first gamer Trisha Mahoney (Pat to her friends) whose height and tremendous strength will be a big asset to the team. In fact Trisha scored a basket with her first touch of the ball (so did Pendles but it took

him three seasons to get one - Ed.) at the end of a strong baseline move, and then followed up with a couple of blocked shots. The second half saw us lose direction a little as we always seemed to be in control but never seemed to be able to break away. Dandenong were certainly not playing better, we just periodically went missing in action. Coming to the stretch we were only just hanging in there, but a switch to a zone press and some outstanding defensive work by Bernie saw us score from a couple of steals and, interestingly enough, rescue victory from the looming jaws of defeat. Once again special mention to Bernie who, along with Gill played some great front row defence when it really mattered. Mrs. Burns played another good game with 12 points, as did Trish Canny with 7. Yes alright Mrs. Cadzow, we missed you a little eensy bit kind of.

Mrs. Burns 12, Mrs. Bett, Trish 7, Fran, Sal 4, Trisha 2.

V.W.B.C. Div 2 (Wed 12/4)

Diamond Valley 39 d. Melb Uni 37

Courtesy of Bayside losing unexpectedly to Knox, we needed only to win this game and then win next week's game, both against lowly sides, to make division one (oh dear - Ed.). To cut a long and extremely painful story short we lost by two points (I predicted that - Ed.). For a short time yes there was Camelot (huh? - Ed.), but just one miserable fucking basket and it was gone. Over the past five seasons there have been highs and lows but the empty feeling after this game was befitting of the opportunity that had been missed. I'm not sure who shot our points, the final score was the only thing of importance.

V.W.B.C. Div 2 (Wed 19/4)

Melb Uni 44 d. Waverley Falcons 32

The trip down to Albert Park was a fairly sombre one, with last week's loss still fresh on the mind. A perfunctory dispensation of \$3.30, a stroll past court 1 and a desultory glance at the court 2 scoreboard as Bayside is no doubt kicking Werribee's arse..... OH-FUCK-WOW-DON'T-LOOK-TOO-EXCITED-BUT-BAYSIDE-IS-DOWN-BY-EIGHT-POINTS-AT-HALF-TIME! Not only that but at the end of the game they were down by 14 points, leaving us with a simple equation - win and we make first division, lose and we stay in second division (oh dear - Ed.). Now admittedly we did lose last week against a bottom team but even we don't have to be asked twice, thank-you very much. To exemplify our purpose and determination not only did most players appear to be awake during warm-ups, but I think someone actually made a basket. With similiar intensity we began the game with just two instructions from the coach - "Stomp some dick!" and "Waverley always play a zone defence". After about five minutes we began to get into stride against Waverley's man2man and from then on with our zone defence working well we kept control of the game to give us a 20-13 lead at the half with contributions coming from all in a balanced scoring effort. In defence our rebounding was excellent with the twin Trishi and Spike doing the hard work around the boards. In the second half we cruised a little bit, allowing them to score 19, but we maintained a comfortable 10-12 point buffer for most of the half as Trish Mahoney finished her third game with the firsts top scoring with 11 points, a heap of rebounds and the odd blocked shot or two. As has been the case though in each game we've played in this half of the season, the result came about because of the hard work of the whole team, especially in defence. So then, first division is it? What say we go and have a beer?

Trish M 11 Trish C 9 Gill 6 Mrs. Bett 5 Mrs. Cadzow, Mrs. Burns 4.

AN ELDER'S MESSAGE : No, this is not a Liberal party policy statement from John Elliot, but a paragraph I am forced to include by some one identifying themselves only as "a club elder". It arrived in a plain brown wrapper containing a single sheet of paper and a silver bullet. It appears after Teddy's match reports because most people will have stopped reading by now. Phil takes up the story...

It is not really appropriate for the Editor to blow his own trumpet. John, being the sort of self-defacing guy he is, never mentions how well he plays (come off it Phil, all you have to do is read between the lines, or perhaps the Dentons ads - Ed.) All club members will be delighted to hear of John's appointment as Director of Sport and Physical Recreation at the University, effective immediately. Congratulations from everyone on what we assume is a promotion - or is it early retirement? We can only presume that funds will be siphoned off in a "bottom of the harbour" scheme for the betterment of the Basketball Club! (How about a Uni "bottom of the basket" scheme"? It works the same way only you lose the money with 8 seconds left - Ed.). Hoping everything goes well.

A Club Elder.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Just to show that Classic Commentary is not just the province of Australian basketball commentators, we open this time with the story from Melbourne's most famous export to Philadelphia, Mark Fisher. Fish tells of how during a very boring section of play in a baseball game the cameraman kept zooming in on a couple in the stands who seemed to be kissing after every pitch, or as the commentator said "I think I can see a pattern here - he kisses her on the strikes and she kisses him on the balls!". Now on with the rubbish from Eastside's "doomsday double" road trip to Perth and Adelaide...

"This is the first time in this game apart from the last time down the floor they've played zone" - unnamed Perth commentator on Perth's defence

"Bruton - show time - he'll need to rehearse it" - unnamed Perth commentator as Cal misses an open reverse lay up

"By gee, if his eyes are that bad he can borrow my glasses" - Andrew Kay as Uthoff disputes a call in Adelaide

"You big lug Uthoff, that would have hurt" - Andrew Kay as Uthoff flattens McKay

"If that had been me it would have broken every bone in my head" - Andrew Kay on the replay of the same incident

"It's Fox's turn to swing the tide" - Andrew Kay as Adelaide needs to make a comeback (or mix their metaphors)

"Uthoff's made 9 baskets from 10 attempts at 89%" - Andrew Kay

"Underneath to Phillips - good night Dick - no!" - Andrew Kay as Orlando misses from close range

"Pearce has Ninnis inside - put it in son!" - Andrew Kay as Pearce gives the assist

"They force Eastside to throw the ball away - Goorjian is furious at these unforced errors" - Andrew Kay

"He was the leading rebounder in the league last night" - Andrew Kay on a new stats category perhaps

"Two minutes to play, can be an eternity, can go in the twinkling of an eye" - Andrew Kay

"Hooley dooley - let's have a look at this" - Andrew Kay as Uthoff and Phillips clash violently

"If you leave your lounge chair now you're a fool" - Andrew Kay as it's a one point game

"By Jesus, what a game of basketball - what a bloody beauty!" - the very impartial Andrew Kay as Adelaide win

"It's all happening tonight at the Entertainment Centre" - Unnamed Brisbane commentator as John Dorge dunks against Illawarra

"He doesn't just get vertical, he gets ballistic!" - Graham McNaney as James Crawford slams against Perth

NBA FINALS : Our very good friends in The Age have printed more results from the NBA Playoffs. In the best of 7 Western Conference final the Lakers lead the Phoenix Suns 2-0 (127-119, 101-95) and in the eastern conference Detroit is level with Chicago 1-1 (88-94, 100-91).

MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS : Well, I've just come back from an even longer lunch than usual. Now that's probably of little interest to most of you, but then again, look at the title of this paragraph. I can't work out who to tip in the footy this weekend because I don't know which of Carlton and Fitzroy is the worse team. Hence, I have nothing better to do than fill in the last few blank lines of this edition of Dribbling Balls and go duplicate it. Along totally dissimilar lines, Rob Sweetten (he of the cleverly formatted double density floppy disks and lap top PC's - single density next time please, Rob) tells me that since the VDIA (Big M) sponsor Westside Melbourne in National League he can get free tickets for anyone silly enough to want to go watch them play on Thursday nights at the Glasshouse. See Rob for details. Only 8 lines to go now. Seven if we have a paragraph break.

By the way, did everybody know that Carmel Cadzow is soon leaving us to live up north in the city of sin, where it rains more than Waverley and Moorabbin put together (don't believe me - just check the Sydney Morning Herald Classifieds for the Used Ark section). Carmel's been a great contributor for the women's firsts as a player and the club by enduring those mind boggling VWBC meetings where rules are written down only in the minds of administrators long since deceased. We wish Carmel all the best, and hope that we see her back some time in the not too distant future. That's it. We're out of space now. Bye.