

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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There is no consciousness expanding, horizon widening, intellect staggering introductory paragraph in Dribbling Balls this edition, mainly because it was written after a couple of grappas courtesy of Mario at Mario's restaurant in Portland. Speaking of which, if anybody sees a runaway trolley containing an antique wooden railing, please let Henry know, I think he's pining...

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 24/5)

Uni 34 d. Altona 21

This game was between the third side on the ladder and the ninth. Surprisingly we were third and even more surprisingly (for a Uni side) we did what was expected and won. With Sally B filling in, Sam playing only her second game and Dale freshly back from injury, the side could have been expected to be a little disorganized. Right from the start however, the team took control through the man defence and some good shots from Sally and Andrea. Sam and Emma controlled the boards throughout and a good win was achieved. These girls are certainly keen too. Emma went off at a sub and threw up, then went back in and continued to dominate after Sally was fouled out. Sam showed these girls how well she could play, and how tough she was. I only thought that the other girl's nose was broken but Sam assured me that she'd "fixed it up" (only kidding). Anyway, another good team win, with everyone playing good hustling defence, especially Margie and Andrea. If we can keep teaming well then this augers well for the rest of the season.

Sam 11, Emma 7, Sally B 6, Margie 5, Andrea 3, Dale 2.

The following is the first match report for the men's seconds this year. I suspect you'll be able to work out why...

V.B.A. DIV. 3 (Wed. 24/5)

Knox Raiders - more than Uni d. Uni - not much

This match report is to be sung to the tune of "Milton the Monster". It is Matt's impression of Uni's loss to the (prior to this game) bottom side in Division 3.

Six bricks thrown up in haste,
Three wild passes causing turnovers each time.
Now the shooting's done do we have to play D?
Of course! Ha, ha, of course!
And now for a touch of enthusiasm,
But we must use only a touch,
For without a touch of enthusiasm - we might lose the match -
Oops! Too much.
We'd better play some D, the Raiders shots are starting to stick,
You'd better hold Mal's head, he's feeling sick.
Game over!
What have we done?
We've lost again - and it's not much fun!

C.Y.M.S. Championship Men (Sun. 28/5)

Uni 88 d. Hawthorn 81

Well, if we'd had a warm up time for this game it would have been a dunking good show time, with Rick, Bowlesy, Swaartz and Killer

throwing the ball downwards with great authority. Unfortunately there wasn't time for this so we just played. The first half was an offensive extravaganza, and you can take that any way you like. Mungus and Swaartz were back after their two day bicycle tour of Northern Tasmania and celebrated by scoring 13 and 16 respectively, while Matt "Killer" Miller was back from his ~~four~~ year bicycle tour of basketball wilderness (no, not Tasmania) and contributed 8 impressive points while Rick was back from nowhere in particular but his motor bike no longer has two flat tyres and he shot 10 as we led 52-40 at half time. As you can see, defence was still away on a bicycle of the outer limits. In the second half we played man to man defence. This didn't restrict the opposition's offence but it cut our own point production by 14 so I suppose you could say it was successful. Swaartz and Mungus again scored well, but Rick was the star, making several clutch baskets as the game went down to the wire and we attempted to throw it away. His 14 second half points were enough to ensure a 7 point win.

Swartz 26, Rick 24, Mungus 22, Killer 8, Sleepy, J.C. 3, Matt 2

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 28/5)

Uni 46 d. Newts 29

We were 3 and 1 coming into this game having lost the first game of the season by only two points and confidence was running high (who said it was too early to talk about finals?). After watching an inspiring win by the A Reserve guys on the hallowed boards of court one, we were determined to continue the trend on the back blocks of court 7. Now defence is a word we don't often use on Sunday night, but thanks to some rather inept attempts at offence by the opposition (a bit like politics really) we managed to limit their half time score line to an embarrassingly inadequate 14 points, while we cruised out to a probable match winning tally of 16. Only some nice perimeter shooting from Stud and inside buckets from Moses keeping us in the game. The second half however was a different story, with Andrew controlling the ball well and strong support from our two B grade newcomers, Matt Devenish and Rob Tyler, we moved out to a 10 point lead early on and were looking the goods. Strong inside work from Steve and Moses and continued help from Nick on the outside stretched out the margin to 17 by full time. In the words of some one immortal (not Harry Belafonte again - Ed.) "in a game we should have won easily, we won easily."

Stud 18, Moses 12, Rob 8, Steve 6, Matt 2.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 29/5)

Latvians 41 d. Uni 38

Relief, relief! Yet again we rescue defeat from the jaws of victory with a 9 point second half and a failure to score for the first 11 minutes of the second half. Can a coach get more exasperated? (Ask Bruce Palmer - Ed.) Can consistency be just around the corner? (This is consistency - Ed.) Can Andrew Gaze rescue the Melbourne Tigers? (Who? - Ed.) I hope John Campbell with his new fiscal powers can organize free psychiatric sessions for coaches who are ripping their hair out! (Leave Mal out of this - Ed.) After leading 27-19 at half time, Latvians put pressure on our point guard and our dribblers and we turned the ball over some 8 or 9 times. First half composure was gone. Somehow we still almost won! Well to comment only on the first half; we looked like a team of champions. Interceptions, forced turnovers, fast breaks, rebounds outside buckets - say no more! Next week boys, I want 38 good minutes, not 29 or 35.

Tim 9, Carey 8, Marco, Stewart 6, Chris 5, Phil 4.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 31/5)

Kilsyth 83 d. Uni 80

I don't know why, but every time we venture to the foot of the Dandenongs to play Kilsyth it's about 900 degrees below zero on a miserable winter night. Never mind you feel warmer when you win. Just ask the Kilsyth players. We were without Jack Dillon who apparently had cholera and typhoid but we regained the services of Graeme Jane after his extensive tour of gymnasiums in Chicago, trying to recruit some guy called Jordan to play for us. So to the game. Well, I suppose we had to mention it eventually. We started particularly well and bounded out to an early 8 point lead with J.C. especially making steals and breaks on his way to 16 first half points. However, our defence slackened off a bit and we started to miss shots inside that we should have put away and before you knew it we were losing. Simon and Graeme both hit 6 points for the half, but at the change we trailed 37-38 when by rights we should have led by at least 10 given the amount of play we had. In the second half we managed to establish a 9 or 10 point deficit which we held for the first 15 minutes. Graeme, Rick and Dim were our most effective scoring options with 12, 10 and 8 points respectively for the half and it was they that led our recovery to the point where we regained the lead with not long left (about 2 minutes). From there we refused to do the tough things, made a couple of basic errors and lost by 3. So, having snuck back into the top six with last week's win, we meekly snuck out again. We are 7 wins and 8 losses. Will we make the finals? I wouldn't want to bet Warwick's salary on it!

J.C. 23, Graeme 18, Rick 13, Dim 12, Simon 10, Greg 4.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 7/6)

Monash 52 d. Uni 38

How does a team shoot 90 one week, 80 the next then 38 the following week? It takes obvious talent, but fortunately we have it. Our awesome output of 12 points for the entire first half was mind boggling. Okay, so we played at Monash, only one ref showed up and he was 15 minutes late, but really the answer was that Monash were ready to play and we weren't. As Henry remarked at the conclusion of the game, it was difficult to find a good player on our side, although Mal made a couple of good baskets in the second half. Seven wins and nine losses should just about ensure that we can't make the finals.

J.C. 13, Jack 10, Mal 7, Graeme 3.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS : Want to be a mega-guru in the mould of Rob Sweeten and coach an I.V. team to a win at I.V. this year? Well, get your written application for a coaching position (men and/or women's team) in now. Dave Liddle wants it badly, and expects to get it by Friday 7 July, but I don't know what that means. The championships are being held in Townsville from 23-30 September and substantial remuneration will be offered to the right applicants.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Now for some more waffle. Honestly though, it's all I can do to resist including some of the crap other commentators go on with, e.g. Peter Landy, Bill Lawry, the entire BBC cricket commentary team. I mean really guys. Lift your game. Now, from the Canberra v. Nth Melbourne grand final replay (and no, it wasn't just a replay of the tape of the game of last year like Teddy and I thought until we were straightened out by some one who knows nothing about basketball - I hate it when that happens), and from Melb v Sydney...

"I'm sure he's in the crowd, I haven't seen him tonight" - Phil Lynch comments on Mel Dalgleish's absence from the Cannons

"What's that you say, Graham? You don't go that far on your holidays." - Bill Palmer as Andrew Gaze hits a long three pointer

"They're going for the oxygen mask!" - Bill Palmer as Melbourne takes a time out

"Lindsay Gaze in his characteristic pose pulling his hair out." - Bill Palmer as the coach gets frazzled

"Finished most dramatically by Dave Colbert - boom!" - Bill Palmer on a big slam

"What's he doing in amongst the tall timber?" - Graham McNaney

"He's pretty tall!" - Bill Palmer replies (about Nigel Purchase)

"He's doing moves I've never seen before." - Bill Palmer describes Andrew Gaze's antics on the bench

"In overtime it's nice to get the first couple of scores." - Graham McNaney

"That's when the coach breaks out the valium." - Bill Palmer as a behind the back pass goes out of bounds in overtime

"It was all happening." - Graham McNaney describing the weekend of close finishes in the NBL

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 swept the Phoenix Suns 4-0 and in the Eastern Conference Detroit beat Chicago 4-2 (or 4-3, I don't know). In the World Championships (sic), Detroit swept the Lakers 4-0, completing only the fifth sweep in history. The Lakers were somewhat depleted with injuries to Byron Scott and Magic Johnson who took virtually no part in the series, and everybody knows you can't hope to win without a guard.