

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 17 NO. 11

6/10/89

Sorry for the delay in printing all this, pressures of work and German beer halls intervened...

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 14/6)

Uni 81 d. Varpas 58

Having lost 2 in a row and slumped to a 7-9 win loss record and tenth place on the ladder things looked pretty safe as far as missing the finals. Certainly safe enough for us to beat the bottom team, which we did with relative ease. A good first half from Simon, Rick and Jack saw us lead 38-21. Even team scoring in the second half including a good contribution from relative newcomer Michael Pitt, saw us cruise to a 23 point victory. We can be very relaxed when there's nothing at stake (especially finals).

Simon 20, Rick 19, Jack 14, Sleepy 12, Mal, Michael 6.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 15/6)

Mordialloc 59 d. Uni 53

Well the stage was set. Mordialloc sitting near the top, against the hungry Melbourne University Basketball Club. Head to head Mordialloc have had the better of previous meetings. But there was something different about this university side. Perhaps it was the past two game winning streak, perhaps the air of confidence, but there was no doubting the look of concern on the faces of the Mordialloc players. They need not have worried because before we knew what had hit us we were down 16-6, we had been slapped with a couple of technicals and the ref bore a strange family resemblance to several of the Mordialloc players. Despite this, and the fact we were shooting like East German shot putters, aggressive rebounding by Michael and Gary plus reasonable commitment on defence saw us in touch with the score at 26-15. At the interval several things were established, we had to play harassing defence, we had to run the ball, we had to improve our shooting percentage, and it was unanimously agreed upon that the ref was a jerk and we should ignore bad calls. All these things came to bear. Rod hit a couple of three pointers, Nick was doing a job defensively and offensively and we started to celebrate when their centre was fouled out of the game with us down by only 2 and 6 minutes left to play. Was this to be a major upset that would send shock waves through the very heart of the basketball world? Well with 6 seconds left Dr. T dribbled the length of the court, threw a behind the back pass to Nick who threaded the needle with a bounce pass to David Liddle who drove to the basket with a flying frap doodle and with one second on the clock and the ball bouncing around on the rim Gary reverse jams the ball through the hoop to give us victory by one...only joking, we lost by 6 measly points.

Dragan 22 (2x3 ptrs), Gary 10, Michael 8, Rod 7 (2x3 ptrs).

C.Y.M.S. Championship Men (Sun. 18/6)

Segarsonics 85 d. Uni 75

I was just sitting here looking at the scores I wrote down from



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this match and I couldn't remember anything about it. Then I did. they had some big guys but so did we. It was 35 all at half time with Bowlesy and Mungus dominating the first half scoring with 10 and 11 respectively. Then we got behind even though Rick shot lots of points in the second half. Then they were reduced to 4 players with 6 minutes to go and a 10 point lead. then they won by 10. Now I remember why I tried to forget this game.

Mungus 23 Rick 20, Bowlesy 12, Killer 10, Sleepy 7.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Women (Sun. 18/6)

Uni 33 d. Redlegs 18

A slow start saw substitute super coach swap to a 1-3-1 D which utterly confused the opposition for the rest of the game. We drove them silly, we already were. Tania slam dunked for the first time in CYMS history. Kim fed a number of alley oops to Phillipa while Lynette had a 100% foul shooting record. Jenny hit a great three pointer from the bench because we forgot to bring her a singlet.

Tania 14, Lynette 7, Pip, Kim 4, Michelle, Nicole 2.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 18/6)

Uni 54 d. St. Ignatius 41

It's 2.04 on a Thursday afternoon and Sunday night's game is fast slipping away into that immense void of basketball memory. A place where one game merges into another, where teams become indistinguishable, where scores fade like an Autumn sunset, slowly at first, then quicker, then finally vanish from view, their only legacy a dimming image in the mind (what a load of heifer droppings - Ed.) Recollections of that game now seemingly so long ago are hard to come by. A nice pass, a clutch basket, a steal or a turnover, it's difficult to know whether these visions are from the same game. Maybe they're from a game further back in the void (I wish this match report was further back in the void - Ed.), maybe from many games or perhaps they don't exist at all except in the reality of imagined perception. The assimilation of events and images into that all-encompassing basketball experience is an interminable and relentless process. With little regard for victory or defeat, personal triumph or tragedy, it creeps forward, Wednesday night, Thursday night, Sunday night, Wednesday night... Days are no longer defined by the passage of time but rather by the change of competition, VBA, CYMS, VBHBA, the season defined by the tournaments. Summer is Swan Hill and Lake Boga, Warrnambool and the beach, Autumn is Ballarat and the Criterion, Winter is Portland. And all the while the basketball experience rolls on devouring not only the actual game and its participants but also the myriad events that seem so inseparable from the playing field. Saturday afternoon at the Clyde, dinner at Paul's or Toppolino's, pub crawls, annual dinners and always somewhere a Chinese restaurant and television theme songs. The world may be a stage but that stage is a basketball court, its players divided into guards and forwards, into A grade and F grade like some 'Brave New World' with its alpha double plusses. Maybe I've digressed slightly from the task at hand, we won, they lost, after all, it's only a game. (I feel I should say something here, but I'm mentally exhausted - Ed.)

Steve 13, Matt D 12, Nick, David 11, Andrew 6, Mick 1.



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V.B.A. DIV. 2 (WED. 21/6)

Uni 73 d. Knox 69

As you would expect in a game where we were playing the bottom side we struggled, trailed, nearly lost and generally played like we weren't very good. So much in fact, we trailed 30-41 at half time, despite 8 points from Dim and Sleepy. In the second half most of us still played terribly, but spurred on by the desire to not be beaten by a team with Dragan in it, we won convincingly by 4. Well, more like miraculously actually. Rig lifted himself above the mediocrity of most of the rest of the team to bag 20 for the half in a great display, Simon chipped in with 8 for the half and Ian hit 6 points and took some telling rebounds in his debut game for the firsts, but it wasn't a good game from a team trying to get back into the finals race.

Rick 24, Sleepy, Simon 12, J.C. 11, Dim 8, Ian 6.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 25/6)

Uni 40 d. Segarsonics 25

The story so far... Our intrepid heroes seemed destined to yet another season amongst the also rans following a surprise a surprise attack from the marauding Macrophages, an encounter which left a blood stained court seven and saw Mick Lewis spend the rest of his evening chatting up the nurses at Prince Henry's. The following week however, and the vanquished became the victors with a morale boosting win over Newts and the B Grade basketball machine was set in motion. the next to feel the sting of our multi-pronged attack were the aptly named Ugly Wolves, followed by the smallest, hairiest team ever, St. Ignatius. At the end of round 5 we were sitting on top of the ladder and looking good. Round 6 however turned into a bitter and violent clash against a team of brain dead thugs going under the banner of South Melbourne, and with over half our team sent out of the game, a loss put us down to fourth spot. God was back on our side the next week though when a peculiar twist of fate meant that we again played St. Ig's and back to the winners list. And now for this week's episode... Having relinquished top spot we were keen to regain our dominance over the competition. The first half saw us play good tight defence and it wasn't until midway through the term that Segarsonics actually scored. At the other end we were able to score steadily if not profusely and our lead at half time should have been greater than the 16-6 on the score sheet. Early in the second half we looked a much more cohesive team with several fast break opportunities and set offences taking our lead out to about 20. It was only in the final minutes of the game that they managed to peg back a couple of baskets. Excellent shooting from Nick for his game high 15 points, a cameo appearance by our head usher Dave L, good inside work by Steve and David M. and fine defensive work by Andrew, Matt and Rob all combined for a pleasing team effort. Roll on September!

Nick 15, David M 8, David L 7, Steve, Andrew 5.



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C.Y.M.S. Championship Men (Sun. 25/6)

Uni 99 d. Oakleigh 59

This was a slaughter as we continued our run of games against bottom teams. Warm up was awesome with slamming from Sleepy, Bowlesy, Rick, Swaartz and tomahawks from Matt Killer Miller. After that we went on a scoring spree, with Mungus leading the way with some pure perimeter shooting. A comprehensive 40 point win was marred slightly by the second half scoreline of 57-43 our way. Clearly both teams regarded defence as unnecessary baggage on this international flight of fancy.

Mungus 29 Rick 20 Swaartz 16 J.C. 11 Killer, FF24 8 Sleepy 7.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 26/6)

Uni 39 drew with Wolves 39

A mediocre performance against a mediocre opposition, which included only two respectable players. After an even first half we drew away just before the break to lead 19-13. This lead was immediately surrendered, with Wolves getting the first four buckets of the second half as we turned the ball over repeatedly with shocking shot selection. We left our best basketball of the second half until the last two minutes a switch to man to man D, with Tim, Lonni, and Phil doing well, saw us get to the lead only to be crucified by two shocking referees' decisions. Three weeks in a row we've led and not won! (Consistency is the mark of a professional - Ed.)

Scott, Lonni 9, Rod 8, Tim, Phil 5, Carey 2, Michael 1.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 28/6)

Uni 67 d. Nunawading 56

This game looked like a playoff for the last final spot, which wasn't good for us, since they'd beaten us convincingly most times we'd played recently. Not only that, they were young, arrogant shits. We blitzed them. Rick had 18 and Simon 8 as we raced to a 36-18 half time advantage. They came back in the second half but we steadied with Rick and Simon continuing to dominate and cruised to win by 9. Good one.

Rick 29, Simon 18, Sleepy 7, J.C. 6, Dim 5.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 3/7)

Uni 69 d. Ajax 38

A huge result which fully illustrated how irrelevant coaches are to the overall decision. Black marks to the two players who rang the coach 30 minutes before the game. Black mark to the coach who arrived 2 minutes late for the game. Black marks to the refs who started the game 7 minutes early (fair go Phil, that's more black marks than kick to kick at the Krakour family picnic - Ed.) Gold star to Paris (all of it? - Ed.) who filled in to make the basic starting 4. Anyway, back to the irrelevance of coaches. This coach remained confused as to which team was up at half time. Despite scoring freely, Uni to the coach's chagrin, couldn't narrow the gap. Never fear, a change of tactics to man to man was executed and despite raining buckets Uni fell further behind. Coach on questioning the bench was told, "Don't worry, we're getting everything." Full time siren and coach is told it was a Uni win,



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and we'd led all the way.

Stewart 20, Tim 15, Lonnie 13, Scott 9, Paris 8, Phil 6.

V.W.B.C. DIV 6 (Wed. sometime a while ago)

Uni 54 d. LaTrobe 27

Yes, the thirds had a WIN! And it was all thanks again to the team's favourite little sweetheart, Libby "Mighty Mouse" Jordan! There were cheers from both the team and the huge support crowd alike as she arrived 5 minutes late (held up by the larger than normal crowd of autograph hunters), but was soon on the court, blitzing any oncoming, albeit pitiful attempts at opposing this phenomenon and unstoppable driving force. Although she scored all of the team's 54 points, she unselfishly allocated the following points to other less fortunate team members, after all, someone had to pass the ball to this human dynamo. Cathy 16, Julie 6, Kim 6, Michelle 2, Janet 6, Tania 8, and Libby only decided to put 8 next to her name. What a girl! But Claire, the "tart" of the team, was only allowed to claim 2 points as her own. Claire, obviously otherwise occupied before the game, had neglected to reclaim her shorts from the place at which she last disrobed and found she only had "his pants for her" on under her tracksuit. Halftime score was 24-10 in our favour and the final score was 54-27. Although it was Libby's night again, it's good to know there are others to make up the numbers for the team. BEEP! BEEP! Oh, the lights have changed, I'd better put the pedal to the metal or I'll be late for another game of basketball!!

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 5/7)

Dandenong 83 d. Uni 63

Ah yeah. They were second, and we weren't, and we soon found why. Despite good first halves from J.C. and Dim with 11 and 8 points, we trailed 33-43 after 20 minutes. Our defence continued to lack an important quality (effectiveness) in the second half, and we consolidated a spot outside the finals with a convinced loss by 20
J.C. 19, Rick 12, Dim 10, Simon 6, Bowlesy, Ian 4.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 10/7)

Uni 45 d. Cazalies 40

Good to extend our non-losing streak to three games. Cazalies without Graeme Jane are almost like the Lakers without Magic, although the presence of Mark Carroll made sure this wasn't a cakewalk. The game quickly settled into a pattern that if we could do enough on the boards our superior ball skills would ensure victory. After an even 15 minutes we slipped behind, but a switch to man to man D generated a couple of fast break layups. Scoreline at half time 22-22. We stayed with the same defence and the manning up improved the defensive rebounding, and resulted in turnovers and fast breaks. Lonnie, Marco and Carey were running the sort of fast breaks that need to be videoed for coaching seminars. Everyone else was filling the three lanes to give some great three on one and three on two opportunities. A five point gap in our favour with four minutes to go ensured victory (oh yeah - Ed.) A good effort in the absence of our rebounding ace, Tim.

Marco 13, Lonnie 11, Scott 8, Stewart 7, Carey 6.



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V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 12/7)

Uni 63 d. Oakleigh 54

Despite their lowly ladder position the Wolves had enough talent to be us, as they demonstrated by leading 28-30 at half time. Rick had done well with 13 in the first half but it was the amazing Scotty Webber who turned it on in the second half and grabbed a 9 point victory for us almost single handedly. A string of baskets in succession and some crucial rebounds from Scotty saw us stay in finals contention.

Rick 21, Scott 16, Dim 12, Bowlesy 7.

CYMS B GRADE MEN (Sun. 16/7)

Uni 48 d. Old Xavier 44

Has anyone seen a set of wheels for a B grade basketball team rolling about court seven in the past couple of weeks? They were last seen falling off against St. Leonards and weren't returned the following week for our game against RMIT. Ah, there they are, that's better. Now, back to the story. When I last left you we were sitting comfortably in second spot on the ladder and looking forward to several easy games to take us up to number one. However, basketball's a funny game, and with one thing leading to another we found ourselves with two consecutive losses, and slipping down to fourth. With half our team having spent the weekend in Moe, things didn't look like improving. But as I said, basketball's a funny game. Old Xavier are a new team into B grade, and their lowly position on the ladder belied their ability (are you sure our lofty one didn't belie ours? - Ed.) We struggled for most of the game to keep in touch and it wasn't until late in the second half that we looked like winning. In a complete form reversal we managed to take the lead and hold onto it until the end. In a game we probably didn't deserve to win, we won. A reasonable effort under the circumstances, but let's hope we all wake up for next week. Thanks to Mick Scales for filling in, particularly after Rob and Matt were borrowed for A Grade. P.s. I refuse to put down how many points we all scored. If people, e.g. Nick Wade want everybody to know how many points they scored e.g. 25, then they can start writing match reports of their own.

WALKOVERS : Are great when you get them, not so great when you give them. Your club committee has asked that the following be noted. The members of a team which incurs a walkover fine will be liable to pay the fine. It is hoped that no walkovers are given. It is in the interests of each player to ensure they tell their coach when they are unavailable, preferably before training, so a fill in can be found if necessary. So there.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : The tradition continues. First from the North Melbourne Eastside game then Geelong - Canberra...

"That's a zone like my team sets on Tuesday night, you could drive a truck through it" - Graham McNaney



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"One little itty bitty step too many" - Graham McNaney as Shane Frohling travels

"Larkins in the land of the giants gets the ball swatted, some would say with great justification" - Bill Palmer on a shot block

"You're a dream to interview coz I don't have to ask you any more questions" - Bill Palmer as Goorjian raves on

"The Giants are firing on all 5 cylinders" - Bill Palmer as North are on a run

"84-66, there goes my maths again, is that 18?" - Graham McNaney

"Giants'll be in no hurry although they won't slow down" - Bill Palmer at the start of the fourth quarter

"You can see it - all ball - maybe a bit of hand" - Bill Palmer as Borner is stripped of possession

"The Titanic is well and truly on the bottom of the ocean" - Bill Palmer as Eastside sink

"The big match at Apollo was played in 2 halves" - Glen Palmer on the Adelaide vs. Brisbane match

"Smythe with a little whoopy doopy going to the basket" - Bill Palmer on Phil's attempted lay up

"His shot looked off balance, but it's hard to know when he's on balance" - Bill Palmer on Simon Cottrell

"Kennedy needed to be Ben Johnson with all the help he could get" - Phil Lynch as Jamie Kennedy chases a loose ball

"Smythe's been absolutely unconscious" - Phil Lynch on another 3 pointer

"He never looks like he's going to shoot, or maybe he always looks like he's going to shoot" - Bill Palmer on Cottrell again

After all that what can be said? Well, I hope to have another Dribbling Balls out very soon, unless I have some work to do! Thanks Michelle and Tania for your offer to help out. I may need it...



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