

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Last week I said sorry for the delay in printing all this, this week I just say sorry for printing all this...

CYMS Championship Men (Sun. 16/7)

Scrunters 97 d. Uni 82

As Phil would say, a great effort by Uni, we lost by heaps. Well, we did only have three regulars, but fortunately we were allowed to borrow Matt and Rob from the B grade side. They performed extremely well but we were just outgunned. Trailing 33-47 at half time despite Rick's 19 points, the second half was 49-50 as Killer hit 14 and J.C. 18 for the half. Could have been worse I suppose.

Rick 28, Killer 22, J.C. 18, Rob 8, Matt 6.

MBA A Grade (Mon. 17/7)

Uni 70 d. PFBYC 54

A great effort this by the A team, extending our winning sequence to 3 games. For those who don't know, PFBYC are the Fijians who used to play at Collingwood. They haven't changed much since those days and are experts at run and gun, pressurize, slap, chase and harass. I well remember almost half a decade ago (this is a good time to go and make a cup of tea - Ed.) after being well down at half time, scoring with Henry and Warwick 50 points in the second half to lose by 2 points. Anyway back to Albert Park and 1989. The Fijians scored the first 2 buckets and most of the first half was fairly even. Alas the opposition was continuing to dribble against our zone press and throw passes under pressure, and the turnovers were starting to come. From 20-20 we broke away with Phil doing well inside and Carey, Lonni and Rod running the fast break. Score at half time 39-27. I don't think PFBYC could believe it - they were being out runned and gunned, and making many errors. Coach warned the boys at half time to expect a lot of pressure and sure enough we spent the second half being slapped and pushed with little referees' consideration. Marco was deliberately punched in the face. However in a most un-Uni-like exhibition we failed to buckle and actually extended our lead. Fabulous game from Carey who must have shot 85% from outside. Tim could scarcely get up and down the court - what did happen at Moe? (Ask Henry, I mean it wasn't our fault the game started 30 minutes before the time advertised in my head - Ed.)

Carey 20, Rod 13, Marco 10, Phil 9, Lonni 8, Tim, Stewart 4, Scott 2.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 19/7)

Hawthorn 54 d. Uni 52

With only 2 games to finals, a win in this game against a lower middle side would see us make the finals for sure. Regular readers need not even look at the scoreline to know what happened. Our first half was absolutely hopeless and we trailed 22-38 as no one knew how to play offence. In the second half we began the long fight back and with Rick and J.C. finding some touch with 11 each



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for the half we began to get close. Fortunately time ran out just before we got in front, thus ensuring there would still be some interest in the following week's game. Although with form like this a finals game would just be a waste of a Wednesday night.

J.C. 16, Rick 15, Graeme 8, Ian 7, Dim 5,

VBA Div. 2 (Wed. 26/7)

Uni 54 d. Sandringham 52

So, the last game of the regular season. Quite simple really, if we win we make the finals, if we don't it's mothballs. As you would expect we were not going so well by half time. First off, because of the power strike we had to play on court 7 rather than at Sandringham, and half the lights were switched off. Not only that, we were hopeless for about 35 minutes. We trailed 21-26 at half time and with about 4 minutes left we were down by 8 and our chances were disappearing rapidly. Fortunately J.C. came up with three desperation plays in succession including a 3 point lay up, another three pointer and two foul shots for 8 points to level the game with not long to go. Ian scored inside then they levelled and with only seconds left J.C. nailed a jump shot to give us victory by 2 and we snuck into the finals. Looking good!

J.C. 23 (3 x 3 pointers) Rick 13, Ian, Dim 6, Simon 4.

MBA A Grade (Mon. 31/7)

Caulfield 58 d. Uni 49

This was a game where 5 bad minutes in the second half resulted in a loss against the top team. Disorganised offence with some poor passing allowed the opposition just enough leeway to notch a victory. We managed to get the margin down to 6 points, but couldn't maintain momentum. Overall a good effort, in fact Caulfield even panicked in the first half when we scarcely missed a shot. Lonni hit 3 three pointers and Tim's influence inside was such that everyone was grabbing rebounds. Score at half time saw Uni leading impressively, 32-29. Probably the key piece of action in the second half was Tim's ejection from the game! Protesting against a bad call when he pushed through a moving screen, he was told he had to go. Alas we could no longer compete on the boards against a bigger opposition. Defeat rescued from the jaws of victory yet again.

Scott 12, Lonni 11, Tim 9, Stewart 7, Marco 6, Carey, Phil 2.

VBA Div. 2 (Wed. 2/8) Quarter Final

Uni 56 d. Werribee 52

Well, due to a couple of upsets in the last round (including us winning a game we had to win against a team lower on the ladder), we actually finished fifth on the ladder and played Werribee who after dominating much of the season finished fourth. With memories of our last game against this team down at Werribee which caused several players to commit catricide and Col Wood to retire, we were keen to do well. We snuck away in the first half Rick and J.C. in particular doing well at the offensive end. Graeme was intimidating in defence and Spudd Webber was also performing. A slight lapse before half time allowed us to lead by the narrowest of margins, 33-32 at the change. In the second half our slight lapse turned



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into full scale absence and we quickly trailed by 10 points. This was quite disturbing because Werribee play on hype, and they were hyped. All was not lost however. We steadied our ball control, Graeme fired in offence with 9 points, Jack crunched the boards and Dim penetrated to score some vital buckets. As the game got close with not long left the Werribee brain snapped and a couple of vital bench technicals saw us virtually clinch the game from the lines, foul and centre. The final 4 point win was a big upset and tribute to a great team effort, particularly in holding the opposition to 20 points in the second half.

Graeme 14, Rick 10, J.C. 9, Dim 8, Scotty 7, Jack 5, Simon 3.

MBA A Grade (Mon. 7/8)

EEAMA 105 d. Uni 49

Not an impressive scoreline, but there's not much you can do against the second team on the premiership ladder with only 4 players! Black marks to those players (and the IV Coach!) who felt so threatened they had to attend IV training, but didn't bother to inform the coach they weren't going to turn up for the Monday night game! What about team commitment? Good effort by the four players and especially Lonni, who as point guard, had to battle against two opponents all night.

Carey 22, Scott 16, Lonni 7, Phil 4.

VBA Div. 2 (Wed. 9/8) Semi Final

Altona 86 d. Uni 83

Having surprised all concerned by beating Werribee in the quarter finals the previous week, we now faced the prospect of having to beat Altona (nee Yarraville) to reach the grand final. No real problem, only we hadn't been closer than 30 points down at the end of a game against them for about 3 years. Still, this is finals time. The first half was quite unusual in that we played quite well and actually led for a substantial time. J.C. was dominant in offence with drives to the basket and the odd three pointer, but our defence was struggling a bit. A late rally by Altona took them to the lead just before half time and two fouls shots from J.C. after the siren gave him 21 points for the half and made score 51-52 at the change. The second half started well enough with Simon making a couple of good baskets, but Altona go a run on and we looked like going down by heaps. However, strong work on the boards by Jack, Graeme and Rick slowly brought us back. Graeme and Rick in particular were starting to fire in offence and for the last ten minutes it was anybody's game. With only 13 seconds remaining we were down by only one point, Altona missed a foul shot, we gained possession, whipped it down court to Scotty who made the lay up to put us up by a point, and we anxiously eyed the clock - still 13 seconds left! We were not amused. Altona hurried the ball back down court and scored to go up by one, then intercepted our attempted half court pass with 2 seconds left, were fouled, made the one and one and won by three points. We were pretty close and pretty disappointed, especially when you consider the Altona beat Melbourne by 40 in the grand final the next week. In hindsight it was a good team effort, as were many of our games through the season, although the team was undermanned from time to time. This



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in itself was not all bad and saw a great prospect for the future unearthed in Michael Pitt, other good debuts by Ian Pendlebury, Stewart Verrier and Matt Scholes and consistent good form from the more experienced regulars, with Graeme Jane in particular showing the ability to completely dominate a game, it was pity for us that he spent much of the season overseas with work. Special thanks to Henry for his perseverance throughout the season and for coaching with a great deal of insight.

J.C. 27, Graeme 18, Rick 17.

MBA A Grade (Mon. 14/8)

Mavericks 63 d. Uni 52

The vagaries of the MBA draw and IV training saw us starting the game with only 4 players. This is a little difficult against the 5th placed team. Especially so as Phi was the only 6 footer against an opposition which boasted a 6'6" centre and two 6'4" forwards! They didn't push too hard in the first half. Scoreline at the break 17-33. Michael Gemech arrived to give us 5 players. With the scoreline at 29-49, Mavericks decided that competing against 5 was a bit tough and their big man stayed outside the key. Suddenly we started to run, gun and generate fast breaks. We almost beat them with one half of this type of basketball in round 1, and now almost achieved the impossible in 12 minutes. Ten minutes of superb ball saw us trailing 52-54! Mavericks extended their lead to 56-52 and with two and a half minutes left started to freeze the ball. We committed fouls on switching to a man to man defence, the opposition scored from the line then added three on the siren. Another might have been performance. Fabulous effort by Marco in all departments of the game. All played well.

Marco 22, Scott 14, Carey 14, Phil 2.

MBA A Grade (Mon. 28/8)

Country Raiders 48 d. Uni 29

Well, there's not much you should write when your team puts in its worst performance for the season. Particularly when it's against a team of geriatric ex-Uni performers (Andrew Bett, Paul Burke and Trevor Andrew), who somehow convince you to turn the ball over, throw stupid passes and miss simple shots under the hoop. Half time scoreline 7-22. Marco scoring all 7 for us in our lowest score half for the season. Second half was fairly even with everyone at least showing they can compete.

Stewart 12, Marco 9, Tim 6, Scott 2.

It's a long time since we've had a match report from Bowlesy, and I've really missed them, and after reading this next one I just can't work out why...

CYMS Championship Men (Sun. ??/??)

Uni 64 d. Someone 57

I remember nothing about this game, however my powers of deduction reveal the following facts from the parking ticket on which the scores are scrawled :

Fact 1. It must have been raining on the night in question. No, not because the ticket is still wet, but because I am too tight to pay



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for a parking space unless there is a serious possibility of dying from hypothermia on the way into the stadium from the car.

Fact 2. Swaaaartz must have been unstoppable with 24 second half points.

Fact 3. J.C. must have been overseas at the time. Either that or he didn't trouble the scorer, and it would take a braver man than me to suggest something like that in Dribbling Balls.

Fact 4. I must have played a blinder of a game or I wouldn't have bothered to write the scores down in the first place

Fact 5. There is no fact 5.

Fact 6. Parking at the stadium costs 60 cents.

Fact 7. The committee will exercise all reasonable care of motor cars while on a parking area but will accept no responsibility for the custody of the car or its accessories or contents.

Fact 8. R.E. Burke was Secretary of the Albert Park Committee.

Fact 9. We won the game in question.

Facts 10-15. Swartz 30, Killer 11, Ruq 9, FF24 8, Mungus 4, Matt the Lesser 2.

MBA A Grade (Mon. 4/9)

Latvians 74 d. Uni 57

This was a good effort after an atrocious first half when we played very undisciplined ball. As a result, Latvians scored buckets of easy layups. Scoreline at half time 22-42. Uni switched to a man to man defence, suddenly became competitive and both teams scored freely. The tempo of the game swung in our direction with Scotty and Phil playing strong D, grabbing defensive rebounds and generating fast breaks. We showed the sort of form that has made us very competitive all season. Phil, considerably more fired up than for some time, started to crash the offensive boards. The opposition panic and suddenly a 20 point deficit becomes a 56-62 scoreline. Last three minutes and Latvians freeze the ball, Carey fouls out and that's it folks. Once again the basic five, and it's very hard to win with only five players.

Carey 16, Stewart 14, Scott 13, Phil 8, Lonni 6.

And now, a new old section in Dribbling Balls - Player of the Week. After the Annual Dinner, Michelle and Tania have stopped smiling for just long enough to write up a series of these to be run in Dribbling Balls. I think it's a competition, but I'm not sure. They said something about great prizes, but they could have been talking about the Annual Dinner again. Anyway, here goes....

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Who am I? I was born at a very early age and lived at home for many years. When it comes to basketball, my greatest claim to fame is my brother, who is now in a Chinese missionary position. I have been known as the six million dollar man, and Gilligan by my school mates (because I always wore the same clothes). I have done for orthopaedic surgery what Pendles has done for music. I wanted to be an auditor but thought it would be too exciting for me. I intend to marry my childhood sweetheart, but at the moment getting day leave from the creche is proving to be a problem. My most



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embarrassing moment on the basketball court was shooting a basket for the opposition ("This was definitely not his most embarrassing moment" - his coach). My girlfriend's singlet is number 8, and she is a good basketballer.

Well if you know who this is, hang on to your entry, because I have absolutely no idea what you're supposed to do with it.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : The season nears an end, but the comments go on forever (and if you want a really good laugh, catch the SBS coverage of the SEABL on Sunday afternoons - the commentary is absolutely unbelievable). From the NBL we have the following...

"We see Arne Duncan looking very pensively on the bench" - Bill Palmer as the Spectres are creamed by Melbourne

"They want to spread the court, not allow the Spectres a chance to double team... there we see the double team on Gaze... a pseudo double team" - Bill Palmer with Tigers up by 10

"The Tiger defence has cranked up another 2 magnitudes, I think" - Bill Palmer in the same game

"He has one of the more classic slams this season, a nice two footer" - Bill Palmer on Tim Morrissey

"They get the ball from the side with 12 minutes on the shot clock" - Bill Palmer as the ball is deflected out of bounds

"You have to adjust your shot to your body vector" - Bill Palmer on a Gaze falling over frap doodle

"He flipped it high off his.. er.. hand" - Bill Palmer on a lay up

"He doesn't put much arc on the ball, but he terrifies the ring" - Bill Palmer on an Ian Davies three pointer

"... finally the open man... you wouldn't call him open... the most open" - Graham McNaney on some quick Tiger passing

"Simmons vacuum cleaners that one in" - Bill Palmer on a rebound

"Turnover caused by young Mark Wright" - Andrew Kay in Adelaide

"Dillon with an unmolested rebound" - Wally Foreman in Perth

"They'll have to watch the contact under the key way" - Unknown commentator as Borner and Crawford muscle up in Perth

Enough of all this, there are still more old match reports to print, so hopefully another Dribbling Balls is not too far away. All contributions still welcome...



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