

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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This is Dribbling Balls number 13 for the year. Is that unlucky? Read on and you'll be left in no doubt...

CYMS Championship Men (Sun. 17/9)

Uni 81 d. Jetz (1) 59

Well, what else would you expect? This was a game we didn't have to win, having safely avoided the finals by chasing gold at Morwell the previous weekend, so what did we do? We blitzed the team we never beat (just ask Sandy) from the start and mostly cruised from then on. Matty Miller was positively awesome with a capital awe in warm-ups (who was that girl in the front row, Matt??) and even Parky was impressed with the punishment he inflicted on the ring. He carried this form into the game showing no mercy for the wishy-washy-no-hope Jetz boys, picking up 13 points for the half. Rig remembered what the basket was for and proceeded to plant the ball with great regularity from a handy distance for 11. Mungus was his usual productive self and Swaartz and Michael were untroubled by the Jetz guards while Matt the Lesser and Scholes the Greater gave good support on the boards. Having established a handy lead early we stopped and let them catch up to 41-31 at the half, but then it was run, gun, stun and have some fun 'til the end with most of the Jetzes fouled out and a 10 point score board error making an easy win look close. Highlight of the game was my full court assist to Killer's wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am, don't you worry about that, hatchet slam on the buzzer. Unconfirmed (but eminently repeatable) rumours suggest that J.C. kept himself on the bench for disciplinary reasons after the unexplained disappearance of Max's cat (my Chinese restaurant not only deliver, they pick up - Ed.)

Matt the Larger 18, Ruq 16, Mungus 12, FF24 12, Sleepy 10, Swaartz 8, Pitt the Michaeler 5.

MBA A Grade (Mon. 18/9)

Arsenal 43 d. Uni 41

The last game of the Winter season finished in a manner typical of the whole season; a narrow loss after headed for the first time in the last 30 seconds. All in all, 5 games were lost by less than 10 points after leading early in the game and a further game was drawn. We played a great first half with Carey putting in a superb 2 minutes before half time. Score line 27-18. Arsenal's switch to man to man defence upset our rhythm, but we carried a 6 point lead into the last 3 minutes. In fact, we lost because we were out rebounded in the second half - Tim on 4 fouls, Michael injuring a knee and Phil sidelined with flu. Arsenal led by 2 with a bucket with 30 seconds left and Tim missed a lay up. Arsenal went on to the finals and we languished competitively in the bottom half.

Tim 10, Marco, Carey 8, Lonni 5, Michael, Scott 4, Stewart 2.

CYMS B Grade Women (Sun. 1/10) Preliminary Final

Uni 28 d. Snalbans 19

St. Albans came out with a distinct advantage - they were wearing



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green uniforms! But I knew our girls had it in the bag when the green girl didn't even jump to contest Jenny at the first jump ball!!! Good boards from Jenny, Tracy and Janine stopped any of their second shots. A quick pass out to Kim or Michelle and they were off on a fast break, usually resulting in foul shots. They fought really well to be up 19-11 at half time. Scoring was slow in the second half but once Tracy's long court passes found Kim on the other end, the game was won. Michelle was fouled off with 5 minutes to go after being severely bashed! The Snalbans went to a man to man, but did that trick our girls? NO WAY! They well and truly deserved their place in the grand final (against the South Melbourne Monsters).

Kim 11, Janine, Tracy 4, Michelle 3, Carolyn 2, Jenny and Tammy played well.

VBA, VWBC etc. (Wed. 4/10)

View from a bench (can't take any more)

By some strange twist of fate three of Uni's teams were scheduled to play on adjoining courts at the same time. The women's seconds played Blackburn Blazers. Tania reported that she played like shit so I suppose it's her fault they lost. Commendations must go to Max and Janet who travelled all the way from Singapore for a game. The men's firsts played Hawthorn and considering the significant height advantage we had, and the carefully planned lead we let them have, we almost won by accident. More importantly, Henry let Michael on the court with MARTIAN shoe laces. The women's firsts played some blue team and they didn't win either. Luckily the women's thirds were absolutely awesome and completely annihilated LaTrobe who had previously been undefeated. See what happens when the Martians arrive. Today Dribbling Balls, tomorrow the world!!! (Today drink too much, tomorrow the hangover, girls - Ed.)

CYMS B Grade Men (Sun. 8/10) Grand Final

Jetz 74 d. Uni 47

I don't normally write match reports for games in which I am not involved, and I make exception for this one only because I've never seen a team attempt so many three pointers in a single half of basketball as these guys did in the first half of this game, and I think this sort of thing should be recorded for posterity in Dribbling Balls. Full marks to Matt Devenish who was forced to play inside and try to rebound these missed bombs. Still kept us entertained. Oh, I should mention, Dave Liddle made one of his three pointers and so did Nick (at half time as I recall).

CYMS B Grade Women (Sun. 8/10) Grand Final

South Melbourne 36 d. Uni 33

After watching the boys lose their grand final against Jetz in the previous game, the girls were fired up to win. There was not a lot of ball though the hoop in the first half at either end. Instead, both teams (with some help(?) from the refs) were trying desperately to wipe each other off the court. At half time the score was 12-11 fouls. The points score was also 12-11 against us. The highlight of the first half was SM No. 5 coming off the court for a head massage! (I heard Henry offered her a fine young



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assistant massage - Ed.) The second half started off well with some good steals resulting from a surprise press. Janine fouled off midway through the half as the "non-contact" sport continued. One of the monsters turned blindly into Michelle soon after, leaving her winded and coughing on the floor. Kim was fouled out soon after because she outrebounded the louse without even touching her - impossible, so it had to be a foul! So they were left with Michelle and Tracy on four fouls, Jenny, Caroline and Tammy on slightly less, 7 minutes to go, 1 point down - can they do it? They didn't give up, fighting to stay point for point but the refs didn't help any. Tracy got her fifth and Michelle was playing inside - much to her delight! But not for long. After a couple of mighty Martian moves, she too joined her team mates on the bench, leaving only Tammy, Jenny and Caroline on the court. (Some of theirs got fouled off too, but they had a whole bench full of fill-ins.) We scored a couple more baskets, but they scored a couple more than that. The final score was 36-33 (with 14 fouls for us in the second half). A really good effort by these girls saw them come so close to beating the undefeated side. Bad luck and don't worry - be happy!
Tracy 9 Kim 7 Jenny, Tammy 6, Michelle 5, Janine 4 Carolyn 2.

And now for something completely different - the same game...

CYMS B Grade Women (Sun. 8/10) Grand Final

South Melbourne 36 d. Uni 33

A cliff hanger. After an exciting men's final, the curtain rose on the "Champions". The women's B grade team hit the court. The atmosphere was electric, tension mounted from the beginning (cliches were flying thick and fast - Ed.) Uni started strongly with a four point lead. Brilliant coaching by Judy "Strategist" Knight kept the team spirit ablaze. South struggled to maintain an equal footing. Some good shots by Tracy and some feed offs to Kim kept South on their toes. Half time scores, Uni 11, Sth Melbourne 12 (team fouls 11 and 12 also). Janine started the second half with four fouls and managed to stay on the court and dominate the rebounds until the last 11 minutes (one down, "How many to go?" was the question on everybody's lips as the team fouls mounted). Kim was next to be fouled off and we were down to five players. A time out was called and the team was regrouped. At this stage we were 7 points down with 7 minutes to go. The remaining 5 had to win the game. Tammy played the game of her life, intercepting, chasing and rebounding the ball. Great inside moves by Michelle and rebounding by Jenny. Great outside shooting from Carolyn and Tracy brought us to within one point. Then fouls hit. Tracy was the third to go, then Michelle (the report as written actually says "Michael" rather than "Michelle", and that's a pretty good Freudian slip if ever I've seen one - Ed.), soldiering on was briefly flattened yet managed to score another basket before being fouled off also. With three players left on the court and 14 seconds to go the stadium erupted with cheers and hoots of support. Alas, victory was not to be. Snatched from the jaws of the supersonic Melbourne Uni champions, their spirit was nevertheless still firing with the prospect of Summer season keen in their minds. Well done B Grade we love you!! (Thanks to all the supporters.)



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MBA A Grade (Mon. 9/10)

Uni 53 d. Arsenal 42

Well as they say, a win is a win is a win! Even if it is against only 4 opposition. Not a lot to say about this game, except that our man to man D, superiority of numbers and quick interchanging off the bench eventually wore down the opposition. We dominated the fourth quarter with Lonni and Marco generating many 2-1 and 3-2 fast break situations. Tim a great job on the offensive boards and Marco a fabulous defensive effort on Dragan.

Tim 19, Phil 9, Lonni 8, Scott, Michael 6, Marco 5.

VWBC Div. 4 (Wed. 11/10)

Uni 36 d. Port Colts 19

... was a team of alias's (who said science students can spell?) (Obviously not you, aliases perhaps? - Ed.) who played Port Colts (who won Div. 5 last season). Nick Wade coached, Elize scored and we won. Not much to be said about the running of offences - who thought they'd play a man to man defence anyway?! P.s. They only scored 5 points in the second half.

Emma (alias Sam) 9, Kim 9, D. Maizels (alias herself) 6, Tania (alias Margie) 6, Tracy 4, Michelle 2.

VWBC Div. 5 (Wed. 11/10)

Uni 38 d. Geelong 28

We should have won by more but let Geelong take too many easy shots. (I've searched for the rest of this report but it seems to be lost. Who knows, it may one day turn up in Bowlesy's big blue bag. Many other lost reports have in the past - Ed.)

VBA Div. 2 (Wed. 18/10)

Uni 17 d. Collingwood 16

Rather a low scoring game you say. Well, not so much a whole game as about 15 minutes of the first half. At that time Graeme had the temerity to make a huge dunk, then not fall down when this bloke tried three times to knock him down, then still not fall down while the guy punched in the head few times. Some freestyle wrestling and eye-gouging then ensued, Toli then tried to help out (this man has done for basketball what the Iran and Iraq have done for world peace). One of their players was ejected from the game, refused to go, was then ejected from the stadium, had another go at Graeme on the way out, then the game was called off and we won. I think. We all went back to J.C.'s place for a medicinal beer or ten, and reminisced about the good old days at Collingwood stadium where nobody used to like us very much. Ah... some things never change.

Graeme 7, J.C 6, Riq 4.

VBHBA A Grade (Thursday, several times)

After a fairly ordinary effort last season where we won only a handful of games and finished well down in a field of 15, this new season has thrown up a large surprise - we are winning games! At present we are two from three, including the scalp of last season's premier. This has come about with the injection of some younger talented players who are prepared to work, some older



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players who are taking their game more seriously and a coach who is finally being listened to. Our new players this season, Mark Bromley and Lonnie Bossi, have bought with them a desire to chase the ball. Where previously we were standing back waiting for someone else to do the hard work, everyone is chasing and covering up, both in defence and offence. In particular, Mark has shown the meaning of "defensive intensity" and Lonnie is finding ways to the basket we thought were reserved for Michael Jordan. Not wanting to be shown up by a couple of newcomers, the rest of the team has lifted as well. Daddy "Gary" Long-legs is finally hearing his pleas for some full court passes answered (they were always answered, only the usual answer was "Get stuffed Gary" - Ed.) and the opposition is finding it difficult to get a tall enough man back in defence quickly. Result? Fast break points to our centre! (Question: How does Gary get there so fast? - Ed.) David Liddle is relishing his role as a senior guard (when he turns up!) and Nick Wade is helping out all over the court, be it on the defensive boards or offensive assists (are those the three point attempts which miss completely? - Ed.) As for Dragan, what more need be said? But most credit must go to our (sometimes playing) coach, Trevor Andrew. After putting up with a bunch of players interested only in doing their own thing for a season, he has finally started getting results. His "netball" drill (learnt in Fiji? - Ed.) at training is showing everyone what running and making position means. Now that we all listen to him, we realise that he does have quite a few good points to make (even if he does send Michael to the line for one and one with 30 seconds remaining and us only 5 points up...) After such a great start to the season, things are looking pretty good. But we won't talk of finals yet 'cos we're all having too much fun just playing!

MORWELL TOURNAMENT : Once again we experienced all the things that make tournaments a most important part of this club's calendar. Supporting other teams, meeting new club people, socializing together, experiencing the culture of a new environment - no. None of these have anything to do with it. We won a gold medal. Pure and simple. The men's A grade team (average age 403) became the only team of the club to win a tournament or competition this year, and we loved it. Highlights were plenty, like Graeme Jane's two huge dunks in the grand final, Mal's baskets from the wing to get us back into the second half of the grand final, Rick's awesome offensive output all weekend, Ian's powerful rebounding and imaginative offence, Bowlesy's offensive boards and the Tim Tams Sandy sent down with him, J.C.'s touchdown and lob passes earning him the A Grade MVP and Henry's compassionate coaching and handy on court performance in the second half of the grand final. For the record, the grand final was won by beating Morwell by 14 points, after trailing by 5 at half time, this being after we beat them by 1 point in the rounds. We loved it. Who cares if we missed the Sunday night A grade finals because we stayed down at Morwell to play the game. Not us. We knew where we were more likely to get a medal. Besides to get to the CYMS finals we would have to beat Jetz in the last round, and we never do that (see earlier match report, this edition).



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What's this? Another new feature in Dribbling Balls? Well, having just read it, I'm not sure all these new segments are for the best. Still, publish and be damned- and I'm sure we will be for this next article, supposedly the first in a series (of one hopefully)...

B'BALL PLAYHOUSE - EPISODE ONE

This is the sad, happy; happy, sad story of those indecisive (at least they think they are, they're not so sure) veterans of the "SDFTJV" Basketball Club.

As this is the first episode perhaps I should introduce the characters - but then again, maybe it would be better for all if I didn't. Oh, what the hell. Our principal characters are the lovers Drongo and Shazza. (I'm loving it so far - Ed.) Others include Georgie, Freddo, Gregga, Davo, Yvette, Jana, Margot and Gumpy. Others will appear as they come to mind.

In today's story we find the script writers out to lunch and the episode stuck under some postrance (???) Oh, but stay watching this space - not for too long though, for the next exciting (?) episode of B'ball Playhouse. Yeeeeaaaah. (David, that was complete and utter trash. Maybe Channel 10 will buy it - Ed.)

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Just got a bit of space left for some Classic Commentary, from the Perth v. North Melbourne semi final, game 1.

"Their anxiety quotient very high" - Bill Palmer on Perth early

"Bruce Palmer looking very semi-tropical" - Bill Palmer Bruce's short sleeves

"That's bread and butter for him - and jam" - Bill Palmer on Scott Fisher in close

"It's tit for tat in turnover town - try saying that one fast Graham" - Bill Palmer

"Contact was slight" - Graham McNaney

"Caused Watterson to go to the floor" - Bill Palmer in reply

"Perth showing a lot more dynanacism" - Bill Palmer's neologism

"That was starting to be a turning point" - Bill Palmer on Bruton's three pointer

"Margin out to... er... 18 - where's my maths? - where's the calculator?" - Graham McNaney, who else?

"He shoots about two-thirds from the line" - Graham McNaney on Exum

"And that was the one third" - Bill Palmer as Cecil misses

Well, that's all for now. Believe it or not, there's still more stuff lying on my desk waiting to be typed, so, look out next week.



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