

Dribbling Balls

The Newsletter of the Melbourne University Basketball Club

July 2000

University Sports Centre Stadium at 7pm on Sunday.

Marc Howard

Black Angels Book Ticket to the Finals

The MU Black Angels have secured a playoff berth in the VBL Division One competition with an 85-74 defeat of the Broadmeadows Broncos on Saturday night. The come-from-behind win also secured the Black Angels' position at the top of the table.

However, early in the night it appeared that the 5-11 Broncos would cause an upset. The Black Angels started slowly and struggled to score throughout the first half. Power forward Jamie Cemm was the only consistent offensive producer in the first two quarters on his way to a game-high 32-point performance.

As the half wore on, University also had difficulty controlling the Broncos' penetration which resulted in eighteen first-half free throw attempts for Broadmeadows and a five point lead at half-time. In the third quarter the Broncos pulled away from University and opened up a double-digit lead at the beginning of the final stanza. The Black Angels were looking down the barrel of an embarrassing road loss and possible fall from the top position on the ladder.

Some renewed defensive intensity and the insertion of reserve centre Anthony Michielin into the game changed the course of the match. Michielin made an immediate impact, controlling the paint on defence and rebounding strongly at both ends of the floor. His presence in the middle allowed the Black Angel guards to become defensive predators, forcing the Broncos into costly turnovers which were quickly converted into points.

An eleven-point deficit was rapidly erased, largely on the back of some timely scoring by shooting guard Lucien Boland, who finished the game with 25 points. Reserve shooting guard Matthew Bell also played a crucial role, shutting down the Broncos' dangerous shooter Brian Short in the final quarter and helping to seal the game.

The Angels now face a tough weekend double against the sixth-placed Blackburn Vikings and

the third-placed Kilsyth Cobras. Melbourne University's final regular season home game against the Cobras will be played at the Melbourne

So what is Luke Skywalker's middle name?

More trivia than you can handle, cheap beer and all that entails, spot prizes, a \$1000 raffle, and the tradition of Stu's bodily functions pop quiz. (With the added bonus of no Stu!)

Stay tuned for the announcement of the date for the 2000 MUBC trivia night. Get your table together now.

Melbourne University Men and Women Successfully Qualify for AUG

The Melbourne University men's and women's team successfully qualified for the 2000 Australian University Games last week by finishing third and fourth respectively in the Southern Universities' qualifying tournament in Bendigo last week.

The men's team advanced into the Quarter Finals with a 2-1 record and faced a Deakin Melbourne team which had handed them an upset 58-68 loss in the first round. Deakin were obviously confident as they started the game shooting 3-3 and looked to be taking up where they had left off. However a defensive change frustrated Deakin's outside shooters and allowed Melbourne University to establish a double-digit lead which they held on to for the entire match to advance to the semis, winning 46-33.

In their semi-final against La Trobe Bundoora, the men lost a heartbreaker 39-41 which would have assured them a berth at the University Games. Despite having a pair of free-throws and two put-back chances in the closing seconds which would have forced an extra period, the men went cold and were forced to face arch-rivals Monash University in the third and fourth place playoff. Outstanding contributors at the tournament were Jamie

Cemm, Scott Cuffe, Tim Sturrock, Mark Boland and Anthony Nantes.

With only the top three in the men being assured a place at the AUG, the Monash game became a must-win. Fortunately the team was up to the challenge and secured the bronze medal, and a place in the University Games in Ballarat in October, with a 43-37 win.

The women needed to finish in the top four to advance to the AUG and started out in style by literally stealing the first game against Swinburne. Trailing by two points with less than ten seconds to play Emily Cleeve twice stole the ball and scored to ice the win 28-26. The girls went undefeated (3-0) through the first round and finished top of the competition courtesy of an awesome 70 point win.

By virtue of the rather strange way the draw was put together the women then advanced automatically through to the semi-final round and guaranteed themselves a fourth place or higher finish and a spot at the AUG. The girls understandably found it difficult to the focus for their remaining matches and lost to Victorian University of Technology in the Semi and also to Deakin Melbourne 35-45 in the third and fourth place playoff. For the ladies, Emily was outstanding for the entire tournament as were Bri, Natalie Johnston and Tania Strahan.

Both teams now start to prepare for the AUG in Ballarat in October.

Marc Howard

The Inaugural MUBC Mixed Basketball Tournament

Sadly the Moe Tournament has been cancelled this year, which leaves seven teams at a loose end on the 15-16th July.

So to plan B! We are instead holding the first MUBC mixed tournament on the 15th July, from 9am to 1pm. Teams will be formed on the day, with 20 minute games being held (10 mins per half). Men are allowed in the key during the first half, and the women allowed in the key during the second.

Bring along some change for the BBQ, due to start around 11am.

After a few sausages, vegie burgers, and drinks, we'll head to the Clyde for a couple of beers. If you're interested in playing, and don't usually train on Saturday morning, feel free to drop by.

Glenda Demarinis

We heckle here, we heckle there...

A number of MUBCers travelled to Dandenong on one very cold Sunday in May to watch the National

Wheelchair Basketball League Grand Final. The Dandenong Rangers (coached by MUBC's own Simon Gaymer) took on the West Sydney Razorbacks (featuring Australia's best wheelchair basketball player, Troy Sachs). After Sydney finished top of the ladder and beat the second placed Rangers in the semi-final on the Friday night, the Rangers had to win the preliminary final on Saturday to make it through to the grand final on Sunday morning.

Did I mention that Sunday was cold? Anyway, the game got under way, and the Razorbacks had the best of the first half. But the crowd was behind the Rangers, with Paddy and Nobby (Nick O'Brien) leading the "Troy Sux" campaign from the sidelines. The crowd were no longer cold - the yelling, clapping and foot-stomping had taken care of that.

The second half was a spectator's dream - Troy Sachs had four offensive fouls and Shaun Gronewegan lit it up from the three point line. The game began to turn the Rangers way, with players hitting the floor left, right and centre. In the final quarter, the score was level. Sachs put the Rangers in the box seat by adding two bench techs to his sixth foul, giving Gronewegan six foul shots. He hit five, and the Rangers were clinical in putting the Razorbacks away.

After the trophy presentation, Simon Gaymer was named NWBL 'Coach of the Year.' Congratulations to Sime, and all of the Rangers. What a game!

Sam Sterling

Want to contribute to Dribbling Balls?

Submit content to Kellie Watt, on kellie.j.watt@ac.com