



Melbourne University Basketball Club

"Dribbling Balls"

President's Report

In this Issue:

- Mexican Night (p1)
- Around the Club (p2)
- Player profile - (p2)
- Trivia Night Wrap (p3)
- Big V Mid season review (p4-5)
- Special Report - The Claw Report (p6)

Winter has now set in and with it means the end of a great month of May at MUBC.

Early in the month, we saw our first Big V Double Header on a Saturday night themed May the 4th Be with You. It was a great night for those that came and especially big credit goes to those that dressed up.

We also had a big turnout for our annual Trivia Night on May 17th at The Clyde. While some tables had a lot of knowledge and others had a bit less, it was a fantastic night! Massive credit and thanks go to Social Coordinators Kylie and Big Sof as well as Jacqui for her sponsorship work, Mel for being a great MC and Anj and Joey for their help on the night. Check out the report in the newsletter for a run down on the gossip and smut from trivia night which might come in handy for next year!!

Also in this newsletter, we have a Big V mid-season review for our D1 Men and D2 Women. This report doesn't hold back on our teams ups and downs so far this season and provides some good facts and stats!

Our very own dynamo Jen Naughton also gives us an insight into her basketball career and time at MUBC in this months player profile.

As for the month ahead, all comps are now in full swing so hopefully everyone is getting some good game time in. We have a few more Big V double headers coming up as well and it makes a massive difference to get a big crowd. SO come along and buy a cider or beer at the door and get heckling!

Rhia Mikkor
Club President

Upcoming Events:

**Saturday 22nd June 2013 –
Big V Double Header
MEXICAN NIGHT!!!**

6.30pm Women v Southern Peninsula
8.30pm Men v Warrnambool

**Saturday 29th June 2013 –
Big V Double Header**

6.30pm Women v Warrnambool
8.30pm Men v Altona

Mexican Night

MUBC's annual Big V theme night event is coming up soon on 22nd June -

MEXICAN NIGHT!!

Every year the Sports Centre has a Fiesta where Sombrero's and Nachos are the norm.

So come along in your poncho or pick up a fake moustache and get set for a massive night of basketball action and good fun.

The women come up against currently top of the ladder and undefeated Southern Peninsula at 6.30pm while the boys take on a good Warrnambool outfit at 8.30pm.

Keep an eye on the event page on facebook and the website for more info on possible pre-game activities or drink specials at the door!





Around the Club – Community News/Gossip

Some pieces of news around MUBC that you may have missed....

- Congrats to Carla Zampaglione for being the proud owner of a new house!
- Another big congratulations to Melanie Fidler for completing the 45km Great Ocean Road Marathon in May!
- A big welcome back to the big city of Melbourne for MUBC veteran, Jared Fetherstone.
- The new basketballs won through the iiNet Hoops Challenge have now come in! Well done for everyone that helped us to come 2nd and get some great prizes.
- Good luck to all MUBC student members coming up to exam time.

Player Profile – Jen Naughton

Meet pocket rocket Jen Naughton! A very popular regular at all MUBC functions and a dynamo on the court and the dance floor!

Age: 23

Started playing basketball: 1997

Joined MUBC: 2008

Singlet number: 15

Best basketball memory: Half court shot to end the first half.

I then proceeded to do the aeroplane around the court with Soph running after me and then jumping on top of me. Luckily, we won the game otherwise I would have looked like an idiot (probably still did) with the overzealous celebration!

Best game: Was on my 20th birthday, I scored 15 points in the first half. Got double teamed in the second and still ended up with 21 points. Shot the absolute lights out of it, was a great birthday present!

Best asset: Probably my overly aggressive nature on the court, I seem to have quite a knack for getting under players skins and making people angry

Favourite pre-game food: Banana

Favourite drink at the bar: Bulmers to start the night and then move onto a vodka, lime & soda when things are getting serious

Most embarrassing moment: Most embarrassing moment was at the Rat tournament in 2011. We scored and were up by 1 point with about 5-10 seconds left. With roughly 2 seconds on the clock, I fouled a girl on the dribble not realising we were in the penalty. Had absolutely no awareness, she makes one of her free throws and we tie the game which knocked us out of finals. Still to this day, the girls remind me!!

Best holiday destination: Thailand or the Greek Islands - pretty much anywhere with a beach

Favourite MUBC event and why? There are so many to choose from but its definitely Warnambool and Rat tournaments, I get to combine my two loves: basketball and drinking/partying with the MUBC crew

Best song to dance to: Nothing like some old school hip hop and rnb to get me on the D floor

Funniest MUBC member and why? Obviously Claw, he is by far the most obscure/interesting/hilarious person in the club. Everything from his random facts about African countries to his dance moves, you are either laughing with him or at his intricacies!!

NBA team? The Boston Celtics (but right now its the Pacers going into game 7 of the playoffs against Miami)



Jen with MUBC funny man Claw!

Trivia Night Recap!

Despite a truck falling off the side of the freeway earlier that morning, causing absolute mayhem on the Melbourne roads, MUBCians braved the cold, rain and traffic to get down to The Clyde for Trivia Night 2013! There was a mix of old and new faces, lots of food, drink and laughs. The night was a great success for the club, with a profit of \$1300 from the evening.



Kylie and Mello

Congratulations to the team "Garfield's Pubes" for coming first in the Trivia, taking home a Taco Bills gift pack and drink voucher from the Clyde.



Smut Quiz in action

Congratulations to Charlotte for her raffle winnings, and well done for not giving into peer pressure and putting it back on the bar! Also, a note to MUBC vets JT, Fids, Tommy and Raef for their \$180 contribution for the golden ticket!



Winners Garfield's pubes!

Another big congrats to Claw for winning the smut quiz. You certainly know the most amount MUBCs worst kept secrets.

Big thank you to our hostess with mostess, Mel Fidler! Big thank you to Jacquie for providing the prizes for the evening. Big thanks to Anj for helping with tallying scores and running in the rain to get some Weetbix for the Weetbix challenge.



The Weetbix Challenge

Congrats to Cozzie for winning the Weetbix challenge! Slow and steady, and a dinner plate, wins the race!

Of course a massive thank you to Tony and the staff at The Clyde for providing the space, some drinks and other freebies.

And last but not least, thank you to those who sold raffle tickets, bought raffle tickets, attended the evening. You all contributed to the success of the night and without you we wouldn't have been able to raise the funds!



The all-smut knowledgeable Claw!

Kylie and Sof



Division 2 Women

MU sits in 4th spot on the ladder with a win loss record of 6-5 after 11 rounds.

The girls have had some great wins, but also a few disappointing losses, including two to teams below them on the ladder. In saying that, losses to the top two teams have been by only 3 and 4 points each.

So where does that leave MUBC's ladies heading into the second half of the season?

The girls have 9 games to go with 6 of those against teams that are below them. This will define whether the girls can make the top 4 come finals. Although a sneaky unexpected win against a top 3 team would also help them sew up a spot if they remain consistent.

But this word, consistency, is the big problem, as it has been for the past few years. The girls need to get consistent in a number of key areas - effort and scoring the basketball!

MUBC's ladies have been shooting the ball this season at a fairly woeful 25.8%! One game this season saw the half time score line of just 12-9 - yes, you read that right, 12-9 at half time of a D2 Big V game! This needs to improve if the girls are to beat the top teams.

Highest Shooting Performance

Sophie McAllister - 32.7%

3 Point Percentage

Claire Edwards - 27.7%

Free Throw Percentage

Melanie Fidler - 76.5%

Rebound Average

Sophie McAllister - 9.2

Assist Average

Rhia Mikkor - 2.5

Turnover Average

Sally Blaubaum - 3.4



So heading into the business end of the season, everyone in MUBC's women's team has the belief that the team can not only make finals, but maybe cause an upset along the way.

But there are a few other teams in the league that will plan to put a stop to that. It looks like the undefeated Southern Pen and 2nd placed Werribee will be the top two but the next two spots are up for grabs, most likely going to a combination of Casey, Keilor or MUBC.

So please get along to the Sports Centre at Tin Alley for as many home games as you can over the rest of the season because it makes a massive difference playing with a home crowd and having some noise in the stadium! It all kicks off again on Saturday 22nd June for Mexican Night!

Check out the events calendar at www.melbourneunibasketball.org.au for more info!

Big V Mid-Season Review - D1 Men

Division 1 Men

So while it's about the halfway point for most teams in the Big V, the MUBC boys have had a pretty tough start to the year, playing 16 games in just 11 rounds. With so many double headers so early on, the boys have been left with a win-loss record of 5-11, which leaves them in 5th spot on the ladder in the Terrill Conference.

After a bit of hype in the pre-season about some good recruiting, were we all expecting a few more wins from the boys outfit? Maybe. But realistically, they have had a pretty hard draw for a new team, have had some unlucky losses and don't have the massive import that many of the other teams do.

It can always take some time for a new team to get it together and find some rhythm and it seems that this may have been the case for the men. Coupled with playing so many of their games so early in the season, this may just be an unlucky year for a promising MU team.

What has been disappointing for men are the amount of games that they have had a lead but have been unable to consolidate it and have let the opposition peg their way back and eventually win.



Highest Shooting Performance

Nicholas Masunda - 51.4%

3 Point Percentage

Jason Conway - 44.4%

Free Throw Percentage

Stefan Pomasan - 74.3%

Rebound Average

Nicholas Masunda - 6.6

Assist Average

Stefan Pomasan - 4.1

Turnover Average

Nicholas Masunda - 3.2

Despite sitting fifth in their conference, the boys are just one win out of the top 4. MU really need Altona (4th) to start dropping some games, while we just need to get wins.

So with 6 matches to go in the season, will the boys make the finals?

It's probably unlikely, given the talent and good standard of other D1 Men's teams. But, with so many good scorers on their team including Masunda, Stephens and Pomasan and tough big men inside, there is time for the boys to get the job done and put some pressure on the teams above them.

Again, it all starts again on Saturday 22nd June with Mexican Night at Tin Alley. Get along and support the boys as they try to get another W and catch up to the teams above them!



Our special report from Claw gives us his thoughts and ideas on the hot topic in sport - Racism

I hate to sound trite, but the recent media race controversy captured a lot of attention. It all appears to be focused on being considerate and sensitive of others. This is very valid of course, but for quite some time now it is indisputably factual that human racial classification is a myth. The implication of this is that racists are not only insensitive and bigoted but also very ignorant, naïve and have an unfounded sense of entitlement. As far as I know, 'racism' is rare in the basketball community. However occasionally I hear things with the implication that 'race' holds some truth and each 'race' is innately weak or strong in certain areas. This is utter nonsense and so I feel impelled to write this. Our lovely basketball club boasts people of all different backgrounds and I'd be genuinely interested to hear all your thoughts on the following information.

Race has no scientific or genetic basis

Religions worldwide have perpetuated race myths since as long as records show, but using the word 'race' to classify humans by physical traits likely began in the 17th century and it promoted a hierarchy which was favorable to Anglo-Saxon Protestant men. Advances in genomics have conclusively demonstrated that there is no genetic or biological basis for 'race' and there are no links between 'race' and intelligence, talent or any characteristics of any significance. Further, individual phenotype (observable trait) variation within 'races' is far greater and more significant than between 'race' variation. Essentially, if we were all dogs we'd be pure bred dogs of the same breed. You can even get a swab inside your cheek and it can be pinpointed where in Northeast Africa you came from, just like the rest of your brother and sister human beings.

Culture "differentiates" us

Physical characteristics and differences in appearance are superficial, recent, insignificant and misleading. However there are clear societal differences between say a Greek and an Aztec Indian. It is culture that 'differentiates' people here but culture changes rapidly and is difficult to define and obviously has no innately superior ones. An unbiased look at history will show you that innumerable cultures and peoples have contributed to the body of knowledge that we take for granted.

No culture is innately superior

An in-depth study of any culture will fascinate even the most uninspired mind. The Euro-centric account of history omits some of the fundamental developments in human history that were contributed by non-European cultures and for the majority of human existence Europe was a very backwards place. As Douglas Adams said, Europeans seemed to believe they were superior because they could lie, litigate, cheat and steal. I'd need a lot of time to get into the details but here are a few non-European innovations from which you can draw your own conclusions:

The ancient Nubia/Axum (Modern day Sudan/Ethiopia) were the first to trade by ships. The Axumites also invented the water pipe. The Malians (NW Africa) reached the Americas 200 years before Europe. The Phoenicians invented the first written alphabet. The Nok people (Nigeria) were the first to smelt iron and did so 100s of years before Europe. Italy was comprehensively beaten by Abyssinia (Ethiopia) when they attempted to colonise there in the early 1900s (Italy resorted to using outlawed poisonous gas on food sources and civilians to cripple them 30 years later). From around 800-1100 the intellectual capital of the world was Baghdad and it gave rise to incredible discoveries and advances in Medicine, Engineering, Astrology, Mathematics. The Aborigines had a system of governance and law which made European 'law' seem like childish nonsense at the time.

In essence, no culture can lay claim to innate superiority because the diffusion of knowledge from all peoples has been essential to human advancement and survival. Consult any unbiased account of history and your eyes will be opened – we have been systematically made to believe Europeans are innately superior to dehumanise formerly colonised peoples and therefore justify colonialism and greed.

Culture has lines too blurred for classification

Finally, culture itself has very blurred lines and is a superficial means to differentiate people, especially in multicultural societies. The following thought experiment should be sufficient to make my point, of which there are infinite examples:

The largest ethnic group in Suriname, a country located in Northern South America, is Hindustani (37%) – or what you'd call "Indian" in 'racial' terms. We also know there's a large "Indian" population in Australia and obviously in India too (the absurdity of this can be seen here – India is one of the most culturally diverse countries on earth). Let's think of one "Indian" in each of these countries. The Indian "Indian" would perhaps speak Hindi, be a Hindu or Sikh and enjoy things like cricket and Bollywood. The Australian "Indian" would speak English and indulge in Anglo-culture. The Surinamese "Indian" would speak Dutch, most likely be a devout Christian and love soccer. Instantly you realise that people of similar 'cultural heritage' can't actually speak or related to each other or have any similar interests.

We are a product of our environment

After carefully consulting established factual information it is clear that every human being has equal intellectual potential and there are no biological or innate differences. What differentiates us ultimately is our environment which includes factors such as socioeconomic standing, accessibility to education, health and other resources, culture, who you live with, if you are surrounded by hostility and war and the list goes on (notice culture is only one aspect). Australia is the second most developed nation by the UN's Human Development Index and with this fortunate environment we live in comes responsibility. Stop perpetuating race myths, appreciate all your brother and sister human beings, appreciate all cultures and their contributions and realise that human solidarity or reliance on every human on this earth is the only thing stopping us from oblivion. Separate yourselves from the delusional white supremacist Protestant men of the 17th century. As prominent humanist Ashley Montagu eloquently and correctly put it, "Race is man's most dangerous myth".



[MU Sport Big V Write Up](#)

TRIUMPHANT WEEKEND FOR MU BASKETBALL

By Peter Walker / 22 May 2013

The Melbourne University Basketball Club (MUBC) tasted success on the weekend, with both the men's and women's teams securing vital wins at home on Saturday night.

First up was the Women's team who faced the Chelsea Gulls and managed to win by 12 points. According to President and player Rhia Mikkor, even though the game was close "...the girls were in control and able to get crucial stops and scores when needed".

"It was a great team performance by the girls with four players in double figures on the score sheet".

Next up on court was the Men's team who bounced back from a few hard weeks with a convincing 38 point win over The Warrandyte Venom, with Nicholas Masunda headlining with 28 points scored at an impressive 80% accuracy. Billy Johns-Teni and Stefan Pomasan were also in good form with 16 and 15 points respectively.

With the season at the halfway point the teams are starting to set themselves up for the playoffs. President Mikkor is optimistic for the second half of the season: "The teams are starting to put everything together and getting good contributions from different players each week".

"Hopefully the teams can get on a roll and get a few wins and take some confidence and momentum into the second half of the year".

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Upcoming Events

Keep an eye on the events calendar on the website for more details on what's going on around the Club.

We're on the Web!

Go to:

www.melbourneunibasketball.org.au

or

See us on facebook at Melbourne
Uni Basketball Club

Got something to contribute?

Got something you want to read about in the MUBC newsletter? Want to write a report on how your team is going or on that big tournament?

Everyone is welcome to contribute!

Get in touch via ree_zee@hotmail.com