

28/03/09

AIN'T NUTHIN' LIKE THA OLD SCHOOL

The late Tupac Amaru Shakur was dead right when he wrote the lyrics to his song: "It ain't nuthin' like tha [sic] old school". Well President Stevan Sipka, along with Vice-President Zoran Salipur are both cognisant of the fact that experience, coupled with the penchant of doing things the old way can lead to wonders. Both of them are right. Last Friday night I was with some schoolmates at Mounies, I mean Mounties - excuse the habit, I get mixed up with Minto as well - and we thought all hope was lost in the second half for the mighty Dragons. Just bear in mind I am a Doggies supporter (I hope Mr Vukas appreciates this) but I do have a soft spot for the Red V and them Wabbits from South Syndey. Any old how, with about 10 minutes on the board, Wendell Sailor - aka Big Dell - sailed across the paddock to set up a try for his teammate Matt Cooper. I tell you what, it was one titillating moment! Everyone was up in the air - including Merv, the 80-something year-old near the pokies area. Not sure if any of you watch the news, but Channel 7's sports reporter Nick Marshall-McCormack said, "he [Sailor] is the second-fastest player on the side, and he's only 34!" He can gun 40-metres in four secs flat!

Now how does the Storm/Saints game pertain to Obilic's current situation? You'll have to read on folks. A few weeks ago, the Royals have fallen short of reaching the grand final, succumbing to the Aces. It didn't take a day for Sipka and co. to surmise that a new tactic needed to be implemented. Sipi, who cemented his place in DMC history as the winningest captain with seven titles, believes the gap between the young and old had to be widened. What he means is, the reality of having two different sides: one young and old. This incipient idea just might improve the prospects of both sides. The notion of having a side mixed with both young and old players seems highly plausible as it construes diversity in a number of facets. You get the gist, the young one looks to the old etc. Sometimes in life, coventions need to be broken - as they say, the only constant in life is change (just ask David Zimmerman if you don't believe me).

In the past four years, Obilic have developed a clique of young and entertaining players who have exceded many expectations. The list is endless. With the boys getting older and wiser, they are assuming more control of the game. They are pertinent to all the big plays - whether it is in defence or offence. The proviso of this concept has a number of benefits. The Obilic Knights - aka the 'old team' - will feature a few of the club's veterans: Stevan Sipka, Milos Salipur, Aleks Kuzmanovic, Vanja Jokanovic, Dejan Bogic, and Zoran Salipur (who's back after a three-year sabbatical). Of the above-mentioned players, Sipka and Salipur will prove to be major assets for the Knights. Sipka, known for his consistent scoring will be the ace in the deck of cards for the side. The 38-year-old is also known for boosting the team morale, which is an intrinsic component of the modern game. Point guard M Salipur will make the Knights' backcourt more effective, particularlry in defence - an area that has received stern criticism.

Overall, the Knights will have a good blend of experience. After all, Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic, along with Vanja Jokanovic have played vital roles in Obilic's DMC victories of 2002 and 2004. Knights stalwart Miljan Miric is mooted for the captaincy tag due to his stoicism and for having a great feel for the game from a strategic standpoint. There will be a number of younglings who will be debuting for the Winter competition. Njegoslav Gligorevic, 16, the star of the "Soldiers" side that became the youngest side in DMC history to claim division two will mix it with the big boys in the forwards' department. He has turned heads at the recent DMC, posting double-figures against some of the game's toughest and ##

fiercest players. In a nutshell, the Knights are equipped with a balanced side - apart from lacking a true centre, the big men's domain will be compensated with effective and accurate shooters. The coveted return of guard Zoran Salipur will add a lot of excitement to the side. Salipur, who suffered a fatal-knee injury in 2006 can't wait to take the court once tip-off resumes in a few weeks. You would be hard-pressed to put the kiss of death on the Knights. Expect-a-plenty from the 'Obilicevci'.

Now to the Royals. I'll be frank with you on this one. I know the public - especially the so-called 'pundits', who are immnue to logical reasoning - love condemning sore-losers and perceive them as

being replete with excuses. I am not the type to obfuscate the truth, but seriously, the Royals battered a number of injuries. The casualty is as follows: Nemz Kovacina and David Strbac (ankle), Dejan Piljevic (back), Milos Prlic (foot), Vlado Jankovic (somewhere in the torso area, I can't quite remember), Dejan Marjanovic (his fitness has dropped due to overseas travel, if you don't believe me, just look at his FB status) and quasi-philosopher Alen Ognjenovic (knee). With winter around the corner and with Sipi and Salipur abdicating, the Royalist movement will bestow its faith onto the younger generation. Jankovic (the oldest Royal at 24), who has been at the focal point of the Royals team for quite some time will assume more responsibility as team captain. With a revived side boasting a lot of young blood, the boys are set to have a great season. The Royals certainly look damn good on paper. They have it all; size (especially if you have someone like Tripod on your side), athleticism, endorphins, skills ? you name it. Although parts of the rosters are still pending, I'd thought I'll show you a sneak preview of the tentative sides:

ROYALS

V. Jankovic
N.Kovacina
S.Gavrilovic
D.Strbac
S.Skoric
M.Prlic
N.Vlaisavljevic
D.Marjanovic

I.Popovic

M.Miric

KNIGHTS

Z.Salipur

D.Bogic

S.Sipka

A.Kuzmanovic

V.Jokanovic

M.Miric

Danny

N.Gligorevic

D.Ding

M.Miric

P.Cao

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So that's just about it folks. I haven't bantered as much as I normally do but I thought the importance of brevity, clarity (bare in mind, this word has been "exhumed" from my vocabulary graveyard, as it's been underground for quite some time) and to some extent, veracity help craft an interesting and readable article. Therefore, if you've got some time on your side, then why not hop into your car, actually, let me rephrase(write) that. If you've got time on your side, then why not get into your car and come on down to Bankstown to cheer for the blue and white ? and yellow. I just realised that I initially shouldn't have used the word `hop'. I onced tried hopping into my car and I ended up getting more bumps on my head than a camel's back. Not a great feeling folks. I hope you enjoyed reading my report and till next time, all the best (sve najbolje). By the way, a second light bulb reappeared above me head (I am not referring to my light fitting if that's the case). Why did I use Wendell Sailor in the first place? Just goes to show that age is no barrier, especially when it comes to hard work, persistence, and above all passion.

Kind Regards,

Alessandro Da Glumci

PS - David Zimmerman is in fact the real name of Bob Dylan.

18/01/09

DMC CHAMPS - SYDNEY OBILIC REIGNS SUPREME

Sydney Obilic had its dream come true: Winning Australia's most treasured trophy on home soil - The Draza Mihailovic Cup. The boys have emerged victorious twice in Melbourne (02, 04) and in Adelaide (06) but of all wins, this one really puts the icing on the cake. Club President and outgoing Royals captain Stevan Sipka, along with head coach Zoran Salipur - not to mention the coterie of players - were initially disatisfied in their preparation for DMC 08. Sipka, along with Salipur, admitted that the work ethic in the previous year was much better as players were imbued with more confidence, determination and willpower.

Well, as the old adage goes, "better late than never", the club got into serious mode in around early-November. I'd say "Obilic Idol" at the 2008 DMC Fundraising Banquet blew one to many a person away with the extraordinary singing talent Obilic has (not to name myself) so it took a while for us to come to grips with the enormous task ahead. Juggling training and working to the bone on organising DMC 08 put an enormous toll on all members of the club and in the end it was all worth it - just ask Miki Miric, he kept enticing everyone with Heineken (on the second day of course).

At one of our committee meetings in August, coach Salipur made it clear to all of us that "we won't get past the semis if we don't start believing in ourselves and becoming more determined". It actually proved to be a "reverse-jinx effect" as the Royals went all the way to the podium undefeated. Since Obilic's heart-breaking loss in Brissy '07, the onus in making amends grew even greater for the club's inner-sanctum. Careful decisions had to be made for the betterment of the club's prospects of winning its fourth title - and above all, winning for the first time on our own turf.

The Royals retained most of its players - Stevan Sipka (the most fervid patriot in our Serbian community), Svetomir Gavrilovic, Milan Vranjkovic, Milos Salipur, Dejan Piljevic, Nemanja Kovacina and Vladimir Jankovic. Point Guard Dejan Marjanovic had to take a miss this year as he went holidaying in Serbia. With the acquisition of Marko Savic - who has played for Novi Sad in the Serbian Basketball League - and intimidating power forward/centre Petar Cvjeticanin, along with DMC 06 Hero Djordje Djordjevic, the newly rejuvenated side would inevitably prove to be a major hurdle for their opponents (see match report).

In all honesty, this was the best-organised DMC and this observation doesn't only stem from our points of view. All participating teams from Adelaide to Melbourne were delighted at how everything went to plan. We have managed to add another element of fun to the tournament by organising a cruise on December 25. I'm under no illusion that the majority of you have already seen pictures/comments and videos on "Fajzbuk" and got a pretty good summation on how entertaining it was - not to mention our final night celebrations at Scary Canary, which I'll elaborate on soon.

The Cruise was "cruizin' along" well until MC Aleks Kuzmanovic - along with Miljan Miric - decided to host Karaoke - as I called it, "Off-The Boat Idol". And guess who they nominated first? ME! At that time, I must admit I had a few beers - all of them Extra Dry of course. Actually, I turned out to be a compulsive liar, I had Bourbon and Coke and Carlton Draught. It's true what they say, honesty is the best policy. Back to the story. I was like, "what the heck, if I did it before, I can sure as hell do it again". Our webpage maestro and juniors manager Milan Vasiljevic was unable to attend the cruise, so I was given the duty of capturing some of the best moments of the day but with everyone chanting my name, I had no choice but to go up.

It took several minutes to find the right track. I originally wanted to sing Bijelo Dugme's "Meni se ne spava" - which would've been a top song, since I was sleep-deprived the past few ##

days - but Aleks K didn't have it. So in the end, I reluctantly picked Zeljko Samardzic's "9000 Metara". I so wished I was buried that much underground because my singing ability failed to live up to everyone's expectations. I somehow felt more nervous than "Obilic Idol" and sad as it may seem, I missed out on some of the lyrics so I had no choice but to blurb my way through (kid you not, I have this song on my iPod). But I must say, I'm thankful for the kiss and \$20 I received to the forehead by Sasa Adzaip and Branislav Brkic. Thankfully, I wasn't booed off like Ashlee Simpson when she sang the wrong lyrics to her hit song Autobiography a few years back on Saturday Night Live.

After my insipid performance came Aleksandra Katanovic. She sang Ceca's "Beograd" and boy did she had everyone on their feet! She was the clear out favourite and she didn't dissapoint. Her voice was redolent of that of Ceca - if not better but more entertaining. She was irreplaceable and she further went onto sing "Djurdjev Dan" and a duet with Marko Savic, singing Boban Rajovic's "Usne Boje Vina" (the most played song at DMC '07, just ask Dejan Piljevic). The five tenors - Stevan Sipka, Nemanja Kovacina, Milos Prlic, Nemanja Kovacina and I - sang "Moji Drugovi" (no background music) and despite the five of us trying to emulate Bajaga's deep, baritone voice, we stuffed up on the last chorus. Typical. The same thing occurred when Nemanja and I did "Pozdravi Je, Pozdravi". We were partially stuck on the second verse! Imagine if we had Simon Cowell on board?

The cruise lasted for around four hours (it actually finished 20 minutes earlier than expected, so the cap'n misjudged the timing) and we all had a blast. We all had a good feed, feasting on one of the most nutritious foods one can stumble upon: KFC. The next day was back to business, with the resumption of DMC. Day two turned out to be a total scorcher! We were all perspiring like a burst water main on Eucalyptus Drive at Macquaire Fields in Sydney's South-West. With the Galvanised roofing, the mercury easily exceeded 40c. Outside the Cevapi were sizzilin' and it was hard to avoid the enticing smell that protruded throughout the entire stadium (I was glad I wasn't the only "Homer" on sight ? yummm). I tell you what, the Finals were really sizzlin' and the crowd had the best seats in the house (more like "Tin House").

For our part, DMC '08 will without a doubt, go down in DMC history's annals as the most successful tournament thus far. From all six categories, our club has claimed five titles in the following divisions: Men's Divisions One and Two, Women's, Boys' Under 16s along with the mixed boys and girls' under 12s. It's an extraordinary achievement and it has done our club real proud. The Obilic "Soldiers" side have etched the records books as the youngest ever team to take out Division Two. These boys - such as Djeric (13), Njegoslav Gligorevic and Damijan Borovina (both 15) were up against players who were well into their late teens/early 20s. Full credit to them.

The presentation took place at the end of the Grand Final. I once again took on the role of cameraman as Milan Vasiljevic was snapping away. It was great to see the boys hold the trophy aloft again (wipes tears, don't forget, the effect of the "nail" has its aftershocks). Just when I thought the presentation was all but done, I see Dejan Piljevic grab hold of the mic once more. I thought to myself, "don't tell me youse forgot someone"?. All of a sudden, I see Miljan Miric rushing down to take my shift and before you know it, Mr P announces my name. As it turned out, I was awarded with a Thank You/Appreciation plaque. I was lost for words but I happily gave Vladimir Jokanovic a smooch on the cheek (he returned the favour not once but twice in the later stages of the night). Milan Vasiljevic also followed suit receiving the same award.

After the curtains came down, it was time to hit the town (I just noticed the first sentence rhymed pretty well, must be the Poetic constituent I harbour deep inside ;). Mr Kuzmanovic (our Events Manager) found us a nice venue called Scary Canary - I reckon it's one of the most sybaritic places one can stumble across. Despite the air con working at full blast ##

(seriously, we needed one with more horsepower), the club really scared the hell out of everyone's sweat from their pores (I bet I only got one applause for this mirthful comment). The remnants of Brisbane's presentation night reappeared only this time round we had fewer topless dudes. I chose not to drink excessively - I had a Heineken, Pink Pussy (it's not what you think) along with a Bacardi and Coke. That's it, three drinks only. Although I have abstained from alcohol for most of the night, I had just as much fun as our fellow "pijandure". I resumed the role of cameraman yet again - I captured some 400 pics, but sadly, I had to send some to the recycling bin in fear of causing pandemonium throughout our Serbian community. Imagine some of the things you'll hear (e.g. She kissed WHO???) I wonder what his girlfriend would say about this one hehe and Ubicu te mamicu ti ahem). In all seriousness, infidelity was out of the question and everyone was on his or her best behaviour - ok, there were some of US who pushed the envelope to some degree - I'll reiterate once more, the pics on "Fajzbuk" says all. As the famous Robert Capa once said, "If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough" - I was close enough alright ;)

That's about it folks. I hope you had as much fun reading my report as I had writing it. I could've elucidated on some of the other "stimulating" events that unfolded throughout the past few days but I simply chose not to, as I'm not the inveterate type who reveals all (coughs bulls**t). At one state, I felt ambivalent on expatiating on who "out-danced who" on the dance floor and I think that half of you have fallen asleep just by reading the first par (do tell me if I'm wrong). Till the next DMC I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and all the very best for 2009 - according to the Chinese, it's the year of the Ox (no bull). Oh by the way, I lived up to my promise as mentioned in my editorial of the Official DMC magazine - I kept my shirt on ;)

Kind Regards,

Alex Glumac aka G-Mac

Below are some of my aliases that you've probably heard of before:

Sasko Glumcevski - Macedonian
Alexandrou Glumatzakis - Greek
Alessandro Da Glumci - Italian
Alejandro Gluminho - Spanish
Alexandre Glumeaux - French
Alexandr Glumek - Czech
Aljeks Glumavlevic - Croatian
Aleksandr Radovanovich Glumutin - Russian
Oleksandr Radovanovich Glusenko - Ukranian
Aleksandr Glumashvilli - Georgian
Alijaskander Glumislamehofikretovac - Bosnian
Alek Glumotnik - Slovenian
Aleksandr Glumirov - Bulgarian
Iskander Glumceku - Turkish
Askander Glumagdiyev- Kazakhstani
Sandor Glumak - Hungarian
Alesander O'Glummy - Irish
Alekira Glumasaki - Japanese
Aleksu Glum-Chin - Chinese

04/08/08

OBILIC CUP AND WHAT'S NEXT

It's been a while since I've put pen-to-paper - or more like keyboard to word - you IT people get

what I mean - for my beloved Glumac Report column, but rest assured, throughout my six month hiatus, I've noticed a number of exciting ventures taking place within the club. Just two weeks ago, our club proudly hosted the annual Obilic Cup for the third year in a row and it was one fun weekend that attracted many fans - young and old - from Cabra to the current scandal capital of Australia, yep, The Gong.

The Cup, sponsored by Telstra, Foxville, Sony and our newest sponsor, Bellissimo's Woodfired Pizzas (when it comes to gourmet pizzas and pasta, this place truly does a top job) is more than just a fundraising event but an opportunity to head outdoors (or indoors to be more specific) with some mates to shoot around for some great prizes - such as a Playstation 2 with the latest NBA LIVE game, a mobile phone and much more. I bet I've enticed a few more who are intent on signing up for next year. Hint, hint a little birdy told me a Playstation 3 might be the grand prize for next year's Cup.

Since its inception in 2006, the cup's popularity reached new heights, attracting interest from a number of teams throughout Sydney. Originally a one-day event, it was later decided to stage the event over the course of the weekend, as more juniors and seniors signed up. Kid you not, most of the old faces turned up again this year, including some new ones. I tell you what, some of the team names were total crack-ups. For example, there were two Fugees sides (I played for one of them and no, Wyclef Jean didn't play), Cengic Vila (the birthplace of Sveto Gavrilovic although the man famed for his mop-style hair-do pulled out this year) and Delije Owners (gotta love that name!). I took on my old role as the ref along with Dejan Bogic for Day 1, featuring the Youth, Junior and under-12s divisions. I admit, it's fascinating seeing these juniors play. They're quite similar to the seniors - you get to see the odd show-off, pretending as if he's a ball-wizard like Bryant or James only to lose the ball in a travel (ah, the joy of blowing the whistle). The majority of the juniors are talented indeed and after all, they're the stars of tomorrow.

There were a number of Obilic and Delije (the ultimate rivals, it's a pity Delije's coach always forfeits the games at Bankstown ? pure jealousy if you ask me) teams out-playing each other, which is great to see. Mind you, it was even better seeing the Obilic Girls - the only girls' side - kicking butt. The Delije All-Stars ended up winning their division by beating the Knights 15-13. It was a welcome spectacle to see the under-12s play - despite the air-balls and countless double-dribbles, the kids were playing for the enjoyment of the game. One of the sides included three of President Sipka's children - Jovana, Alena and Aleksandar "Cuburac" (who won the under-12s free throw shoot-out).

The seniors division proved to be more entertaining and probably a little controversial particularly during the grand final where the Gong boys became quite vociferous. Anyway, Deki and I handed the refereeing duties over to Vice President Zoran Salipur and Milan Vranko. We had a few members from our club suited up for the day, including the likes of Sipka (who passed his apron and thongs onto my dad after spending the previous day outside on the BBQ preparing the Cevapi Sizzles), Aleks Kuzmanovic - who along with Vanja Jokanovic did an outstanding job in the administrative department, making sure that everything was running smoothly without any hiccups - The Miric Bros., Milos Salipur, Nemz etc.

Like in any good game of basketball, the crowd will always get to witness something special, whether it is a clutch or free throw shot to seal the game. Then there's always the element of surprise that uncommonly leaves everyone tight lipped, just like the semi-finals. First of, the UTS - with Jankovic gone AWOL due to rep commitments - were in all sorts of trouble. The Clippers, led by none other than Stevan Sipka - I must remind you that he was the oldest player - looked certain to book their way into the final. The tireless Sipka was locking horns with his young rival Kovacina - there's some great news about this kiddo, so stay tuned. I know this might not sound much like an analogy, but the shooting display was like Ping Pong - Sipka, Nemz, Sipka, Nemz etc. The scores were levelled for most of the 12 minutes but in the end the young, energetic, indefatigable UTS side overcame the experience of the Clippers.

Semi final number two between Wollongong - I personally like to call them The Gong Gang - and The Fugees got off to a quick start. The Fugees' Dejan Piljevic, a native of The Illawarra, knows his

foes quite well but it wasn't enough to suppress the winning attitude of the chaps from Figtree. Tomi Sikic, aka King Tom and Aleks K were doing their bid to overcome the height advantage that the Gong possessed and in the dying minutes, it appeared to be a dead-set Fugees win. Sikic almost thought he sent the game into OT after his two-pointer but was flabbergasted to learn that the ball wasn't checked. End game Wollongong catapult to the grand final.

Come grand final, things started to heat up a little, but thankfully our refs kept the blanket on any foreseeable trouble. Funny enough, the Gong's Nebojsa Laketa prophetically exclaimed to me a few weeks ago that he sensed a grand final where he'd meet young-gun Nemz and it came true - yet his premonition about winning the title was diminished. The finale included a bit of push and shove, after all it's the title - and prizes - the teams are fighting for. Despite Jankovic being out of action for UTS, the lads recruited the ever-improving Mirko Djeric to fill the void. I've always known the Wollongongians for their laid-back manner - must be the wonders of Stuart Beach - but as the game delved into the dying minutes, the lads were on the brink of receiving a tech due to their untamable behaviour toward the refs and UTS as well (even Zoran had to tell Alen Ognjenovic - who was bench warming at the time - to shut up because simply he couldn't shut up). The emotions eventually caught up with everyone. The UTS side proved to be the best team of the day, even if Sasha Kovacina only touched the ball once in the past six months.

AND yes Nemz, I did capture that two-handed dunk you did.

Overall, the Obilic Cup can be summed up in the following: fun, entertaining and delightful. It was also filled with a lot of humour. Most of the raffle prizes were won by members from within the club (none of it was planned, seriously). You had Zoran Salipur take out the 3-point comp - the first time we had a non-player win - and Vanja Jokanovic winning his "own prize" during the raffle for the PS2 (it was later re-drawn and won by Pedja Milovanovic). Dejan Bogic scored himself a new Motorola C168, courtesy of Telstra and Jovana Sipka won the second PS2 prize.

In further good news, the young Nemanja Kovacina, a former development player of the Sydney Kings last week attended the inaugural NBL Prospects Camp in Melbourne. The aim of the camp is to identify players who might one day play in the nation's top league. The possibility of playing elsewhere is imminent, such as Europe or even the NBA. So keep your eye out on Kovacina - or Nemz as he prefers ;).

With the Obilic Cup out of the way, our next major event is only around the corner: The 2008 Draza Mihailovic Cup. It will also mark the tournament's fifteenth Jubilee - another magnificent milestone. It makes us so proud to see that after all these years, the undying passion, ardour and love still exists to preserve the ultimate and if not, the greatest Serbian basketball tournament outside the great nation itself, the one and only Draza Mihailovic Cup!

20/01/08

Draza Mihailovic Cup 2007 Report

There are two kinds of people – or should I say teams in the world – those who win and those who lose, well sadly enough our boys failed to win back-to-back and so the DMC cup had to be reluctantly handed over to Brisbane.

It wasn't easy seeing the almighty Royals lose by a whisker 2 points but being a modest club, we not only extend our congratulations to the White Eagles, but to the entire Brisbane community.

So far, the Bananabenders have twice claimed the trophy – Albury 2005 and at home 2007, plus we've got three under our belt – and they would've had a "repeat" in Adelaide last year but Obilic stood in the way.

It didn't take a rocket scientist to realise that revenge was on Brisbane's agenda and as a result, this has sparked another rivalry; one that's akin to the ever-so-popular State Of Origin.

I must say it's been a fortunate year for Queensland. First they beat the Blues in the tug-of-war Origin series, then the Brisbane Bullets win their first NBL title in two decades but wait there's more: one of Queensland favourite son's, Kevin Rudd boots Howard out of office to become Australia's new PM. TRIVIA – The last time a Queenslander led Australia was back in 1945. His name was Frank Forde and he only lasted a week.

Sorry for going off-track a little folks, I just had to throw those in. It not only provides an informative platform about what happened during DMC 2007 but also some interesting facts, particularly for those who just might be interested in contesting for Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

THE GRAND FINAL

The Grand Final was one hell of a game. I must admit that I tried my utmost best to scribble down the main points of the game on my notepad while cheering for the boys at the same time. When it came to deciphering what I've written down, it proved to be harder than I originally imagined. I should've warned myself that black ink and alcohol don't go hand-in-hand.

Believe or not, the Obilic supporters – led by a vibrant Miki Miric – were far more vocal than the home crowd (and if memory serves me right, there were a few that even joined our gang). The atmosphere was dynamic – there was singing, and since we're no musical band – thus lacking any proper instruments – we had to rely on other props: a witch's hat plus we collected most of the stadium's bins – and they turned out to be much louder than actual bongo drums.

As I mentioned before, the moment of glory made it unbearable for us to even glance at the excitement that whizzed throughout the entire Cowan Stadium. Our boys hanged their heads in shame and to a degree, choked back tears. I for starters couldn't begin to ponder what dispirited thoughts that ran through the back of everyone's mind.

They were probably thinking: “We trained our butts all year and for what?” The boys were pumped, ready to kick some ass (I would've said Serb ass but being a monarchist club I thought otherwise). They won their pool games and semi-final by an average of 20 points.

Winning back-to-back titles ain't no easy task, and the Obilic lads, led by DMC veteran Stevan Sipka were more determined than ever – they were making baskets like there was no tomorrow and outrebounding on every occasion. Kid you not; the lads were so strict on themselves that alcohol was off the menu (istina, majke mi – ok, I'll be honest; we only drank on days we didn't play). This proved to be an effective method.

Anyway back to the final, Obilic forward Svetomir Gavrilovic – aka Svetac or Blacktown Boy – got the scoring on the way. Thanks to him, our boys were 10 points up – he sunk a three, banged 2/2 from the charity stripe and relied on his trademark fade-away J. Former Partizan player Milan Vranjkovic – aka Milan Vranks – was pivotal throughout all four quarters – especially when it came to upping the score on the LED panel (just like in his old days).

It was one fast-paced game, luckily for us, we sat behind the board, and so our necks remained sedentary the entire time – unlike the tennis fans, which have to keep up with the flight of the ball every half a sec.

The third quarter initiated a nail-biting spree among the crowd. At one stage, the boys were leading by 10 then later on it was vice-versa. Yet, the Royals fought their way back to the top. Like any other sporting side, easy mistakes were made and sadly it's these mistakes that can cost the game.

The White Eagles were unstoppable on the fast break. Their determination was evident as they made good use of all of Obilic's turnovers.

The fourth quarter was no different and the "drums" continued to beat – even though some looked like scrap from the local tip. At the sixth minute, scores were 40-45 – White Eagle's way. Club captain Stevan Sipka, Vlado Jankovic and Sveto pushed the score to 47-47.

Rising star Milos Prlic missed two vital free throws – it would've been 49-all. In the ensuing seconds, both sides were in cat-and-mouse mode and Marko Sipka put the icing on the cake as Brisbane clinched their second DMC title. Final score: 53-51.

I do apologise if my analysis lacked depth. Adrenaline was running through everyone's veins and we were jumping up and down as if the stands were a jumping castle. My notepad was drenched in VB or Heineken however; my prerogative was to cheer the boys on till the final whistle.

BACK AT THE HOTEL/PRESENTATION NIGHT

It was quite obvious that we were all traumatised in what turned out to be a disappointing campaign – all of our sides (including the seniors and juniors) failed to stand on top of the podium. At least Njego Gligorovic took out this year's 3-point comp, so it's fair to say we didn't leave Brizzy empty handed.

Inevitably, we all had to drown our sorrows and what better way to do it than in the hotel's swimming pool – thankfully the pool's only a meter deep but it proved to "be a hit", just ask Vlado Jankovic.

It was no ordinary scene; there were no constructive criticism and no bitching. As it turned out, we were not only discussing plans for DMC 2008 but chanting to some of the old classics: Marsirala Kralja Petra Garda, Pozdravi je, pozdravi and many more.

Room no. 7 – where Piljevic, Jankovic and Sveto stayed – were pumping out beer – mostly Coronas (minus the lemon) – like a German pub in Düsseldorf. We were all in good spirits but the real fun was hours away.

After guzzling a carton or two, it was time to board the vans and head to Sv. Nikola's Hall in Bowen's Hill. We all got ready on time, suiting up in casual attire – some of us wore JAG, Colorado (such as myself) and even Dejan Bogic's favourite; Diesel).

Before entering the club, we had to savour our final seconds with the trophy because we do know what it's like to lose grand finals. After spending 15 minutes or so posing with the cup it was time to take our seats among the rest of the tournament's participants.

As we journeyed our way through the hall, we started to sing "Obilic je neverovatan tim/Samo napred Obilic" and to our surprise, we received a standing ovation. Like always the club's president, Sipka, was the centre of attention, not only receiving praise from his fellow teammates, but from everyone.

The DJ was playing all the right tunes and all of us were set to have a great time – to a lesser extent partying time. In an unprecedented fashion, the singing and dancing – which undoubtedly provided the impetus for one hell of a night – commenced before the actual presentation.

Although there were a number of songs played when we arrived, the one that really kicked it off

was Bajaga's "Moji Drugovi". By the then, all of the tables were full of Coronas and Heinekens. It was rather a surreal moment for us – celebrating as if we were the actual victors – at least we had fun.

For every bpm – beats per minute – someone got tipsy and for every song that was played, I'd see one or two people dancing on the table – thankfully these tables were rigid because if it weren't, there would've been a few "Funniest Home Video Show" moments.

As the "party" wavered on, Sipka yet again became the centre of attention. He impressed us immensely with his superb dancing style – although not as great as his top-of-the-key shooting – and before you know it, whooshka, the shirt comes off. Luka, Ivan and I were next in line, but I'm like 'what the heck', we all flew 1000km and we're not leaving until we've fulfilled our promise of having a great time – and it was a blast.

There are many people out there who take pleasure in singing while having a shower – anyone remember the "Decore" commercial from the 90s? To say the least, we all engaged in one big huddle when it came to singing Djurdjev Dan, Lipe Cvatu, Mesecina etc and it couldn't have been merrier – especially when you're in the middle of a "beershower". If any of you have Facebook – aka Fajsbuk – you'll see what I mean hehe.

Furthermore, I wouldn't be surprised if someone decides to upload a clip on YouTube – if so; it'll make us instant celebrities.

The night ended on a good note – we all farewelled and wished each other all the best for 2008.

On behalf of KK Obilic, I wish everyone a safe and happy 2008.

18/08/07

Royals crowned Kings

THREE of Cabramatta Obilic Royals' rising stars were elevated to royal status after receiving a scholarship with NBL powerhouse club Sydney Kings.

Nemanja Kovacina, Milos Prlic and Dejan Marjanovic, who also play for the Parramatta Wildcats Youth League team, were among the top-20 NSW basketballers to be selected for the Sydney Kings Youth Elite (SKYE) program.

All three boys were "over the moon" as their names were called out by program coordinator John Young, who spotted the talented bunch during the two trials that took place throughout July and August.

"We were quite impressed by their efforts," said Young. "For their age, they are quite skilful and show a lot of potential.

"Ned [Nemanja] for a tall player is quite strong and is very good at the three-point range. Milos displayed a lot of leadership skills and was telling players what to do and we like to see that type of enthusiasm in young players.

"As for Dejan, he was really patient at the one-spot [point-guard position] and his dribbling skills are excellent as well as his jump-shots."

The program will consist of three camps throughout 2007 and 2008 where the boys will be under the watchful eye of both Young and Kings assistant coach Bill Tomlinson. The last camp will be conducted in the exclusive Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) throughout the Easter period.

With the Kings being one of the most recognisable teams throughout Australia, they have been quite successful in producing some of the country's best, including Boomers stars Matthew Nielsen and Mark Worthington.

Young said the boys will also be assessed by Kings head coach Brian Goorjian, who is regarded as Australia's most successful coach. Goorjian is willing to give the younglings a chance to progress onto the professional arena.

"Goorj [Goorjian] is always looking for talent and he knows it when it finds it. Most players who went under his wing had a good run, and it showed in his three successive championships."

The trio credit Obilic coaches Zoran and Milos Salipur for dedicating all of their time in training all of the juniors.

"They have taught us all the right skills and how to play, thereby increasing our chances of being noticed by scouts," Marjanovic said.

Obilic President Stevan Sipka has congratulated all three players and wishes them well in their upcoming camps.

13/05/07

ROYALS TOO GOOD

The Royals once again proved to be the better half of the club after beating the Knights by a whisker on Monday night (71-68).

It could have gone the other way, but the Royals hung in there, especially when the Knights climbed up from a 20-point deficit in the late stages of the game.

Rising Royals star Nemanja "Nemz" Kovacina led both sides with 26-points as he fought it out with Royals veteran Stevan Sipka.

It was a "battle of the boards" as Kovacina and Sipka tried to out-rebound one another on every occasion.

Known for being one of the hardest men to contain in the game, Sipka admitted he was "put on the canvass" by Kovacina.

"The first half showed that Nemz was determined to win and that he wasn't going to back down at all", Sipka said.

"I battled back to some degree, but he won on the points decision ... he also made a clutch shot whilst I missed a few in the last minute."

Apart from Kovacina's juggernaut performance in the paint, the Royals were leading a crusade against Knights towards the end of the first term, but the tables turned mid-way through the second.

The ever-athletic Nenad Vlasisavljevic along with point-guard Miki Miric fired up in the second

quarter by making some big buckets, but part of the credit went to Marjan Todorovski for his fine touch from downtown.

Even with the Royals' recuperation in the second term, Sipka felt the team's defence structure was not up to scratch.

"We were continually out-marked in various stages of the game, especially when we played three-two defence," Sipka said.

"There were many open spaces that allowed the boys to penetrate to the basket ... it was the overloads that killed us.

"By the same token, we're getting better as a team each week."

The Knights and Royals will face the Southside Blues and B/S Smicks respectively next Monday.

20/04/07

TWO POINTS TOO SHY

The Obilic Knights were seconds away from making it 2-1 in this year's Bankstown Winter Competition after losing 40-42 to RWC Cartel on Monday night.

With captain Stevan Sipka, co-captains Vanja Jokanovic and Dragan Blazevic all sidelined with injury, the reigning wooden spooners outmatched their opponents throughout most of the game.

The results would have gone the other way had high-flyer Nenad "Tripod" Vlasisavljevic not missed his "reverse dunk".

With only minutes left on the clock, the 19-year-old was not even a metre away from the basket when he accidentally slipped during a fast-break.

Club president Stevan Sipka admitted after the game that Vlasisavljevic's blooper gave Cartel the win.

"That was the turning point of the game," Sipka said.

"We were up by 6 points with minutes to go and after that [miss-dunk], we just switched off ... but the boys deserve a lot of credit because they stuck together the entire time.

"Their defence was the best that I've seen so far. Glumac, Miljan, Marjan and Bogic did a remarkable job on the boards.

"Even when we missed our shots, they were there ready to get the ball back for a restart ... it was also good to see that we had a number of put-backs made."

Another player that needs a mention is young gun Miki Miric who led both sides with 18-points.

Despite some errors in the earlier parts of the game, Miric continued with his dynamic style of play with his long-range jumpers and his hard drive to the basket.

The Knights will face the Aces on Monday night. The Royals had the bye this week.

01/04/07

ROYAL LIFT-OFF

The Obilic Royals have stunned the basketball fraternity after beating RWC Cartel 110-76 in the season opener of the Bankstown Winter Competition.

Young guns Nemanja Kovacina and David Strbac, who were considered by some to be too inexperienced to play, had 66 points scored between them. Head coach Zoran Salipur described the win as “one of the best ever”.

The newly rejuvenated Royals lead the entire time, although they were criticised for their easy going defence but it was the scoring that didn't seem to stop.

Captain Milos Salipur chose to sit out from the start to see if the “younglings” could compete against players that were up to twice their age, and he wasn't disappointed.

Kovacina, who previously played in the under-21 team, lead both teams with 36 points followed by 15 rebounds. His partner-in-crime, David Strbac (the nephew of Misel Strbac), 15, scored an unbelievable 30 points.

The pair were virtually unstoppable. At one stage Kovacina scored twice in a space of three seconds when a RWC player failed to inbound the ball.

Cartel didn't know what hit them, especially with the Royals dominating the game from start to finish. If no one scored under the basket, there'd be a three-point bomb from the side.

“Everyone played well, especially in offence,” said Milan Vasiljevic, Obilic's public affairs manager.

“The juniors stood up and it's the first game of the season. Full credit to them, if they continue like this, they'll be a force to be reckoned with. To sum up it was awesome.”

The Royals' other arsenal included Dejan Marjanovic, Milos Prlic and none other than Djole Djordjevic, who was “sin binned” midway throughout the second half for talking back to the referee.

Marjanovic's sideline jumper in the third minute of the final half pushed the score past a hundred and the crowd went berserk.

The crowd went wilder when centre Vlado Jankovic threw down a one handed slam dunk in the dying seconds over three Cartel players (not to mention Kovacina who stood like a statue). It's a pity the dunk wasn't recorded but who cares, it's the win that matters.

Their Royal Highnesses played extremely well and there will be many more great games to come. They will face the Aces on Monday night.

WHAT A KNIGHT

The Obilic Knights had 41 reasons to smile after winning their first game in more than eight

months. After failing to win a single game last season, the Knights kicked their new season off in style, beating B/S Smicks 69-55.

Not only was the win a surprise to everyone but it was the performance of club president Stevan Sipka, who topped both teams with 41 points. Sipka, who currently holds the club's scoring record of 53 points, said the win was a must.

"I couldn't have asked for a better start to the season," Sipka said. "Last season was a frustrating one for the boys and everyone was down.

"Before the game, I told them [the team] to forget about last season and to think about this one. I also enforced the fact that confidence needed to be restored and without confidence, you lose all hope.

"In the end, everyone's played well this game and I hope that we continue with this from throughout the season."

Despite missing a few shots here and there, the Knights remained ahead, working hard in offence and defence. Sipka was instrumental in getting most of the Knights' boards throughout the match, as was forward Miljan Miric.

At one stage it was neck-and-neck, but Knights' objective was not to be underrated but to show their fans that they're capable of winning the game.

As the old adage goes: 'Age shall not weary them', Sipka showed no sign of slowing down. At the age of 36, Sipka is oldest player on the side and is the most experienced one. His passion for the game was evident by his dedication in attack and in defence.

Not once has the legendary basketballer backed away from a missed shot. He knew his presence had to be felt on the court and winning was the only thing that mattered.

Despite being one of the smaller players on the court, Miki Miric was a big part of the Knights' equation. Although half in body weight when compared to other players, Miric stunned the Smicks with his array of lay-ups. Expected to be blocked every time, Miric knew how to deceive his opponents.

Known for his rough style of play, Royals discard Dejan Bogic led the team in assists, making sure that everyone had a slice of the action.

The Knights will face Drunken State on Monday night.

26/03/07

NEW SEASON, NEW TEAMS

Despite losing in a controversial semi-final to the Aces last season, the Royals are ready to take on the new Bankstown Winter Competition, especially with the addition of some of the club's brightest young stars.

The recruitment of DMC hero Djordje Djordjevic and versatile forward Nemanja "Ned" Kovacina will add more scoring options to the side, especially after the departure of club president and captain Stevan Sipka, who joined the under-achieving Knights.

With five teenage players, the team age average is 21, making it the youngest Royals team ever. They will be captained by club veteran Milos Salipur, who was part of the original squad from 1999.

“Having a younger team will certainly turn things around,” Mr Sipka said. “With the young boys joining the crew, the Royals will not only be a faster side but a more dynamic one.

“There’ll be a less a chance of players getting fatigued in games and they will be more of a competitive side.

“With players like Djordjevic, Prlic, Kovacina and Marjanovic there’ll be a lot to look forward to and there are going to be plenty of exciting games to watch.”

The youngsters won’t be alone as they’ll be guided by the likes of powerhouse forward Misel Strbac and guard Aleks “The Gunner” Kuzmanovic, who was traded by the Knights for Dejan Bogic.

Royals team roster: Nemanja Kovacina, Djorjde Djordjevic, Milos Prlic (traded by the Knights), Milos Salipur (captain), Vlado Jankovic, Dejan Marjanovic, David Strbac and Aleks Kuzmanovic.

The Knights will have to turn things around after failing to win a single game last season. After losing many key players to injury and other commitments, the Knights hope to start on a good note.

The team’s leading scorer Sinisa Skoric will be out for a least four weeks after suffering a knee injury at training that put him on crutches. Skoric believes he’ll get back into action by round five.

With Kuzmanovic and Prlic gone, the Knights will heavily rely on club veteran Stevan Sipka, who has lifted his hand in the off-season to join the struggling side.

Known for his unbelievable strength and scoring abilities, Sipka hopes to put the Knights back on track.

“The side has a lot of potential, but there are some things that need sorting out,” Sipka said.

“We’ve had injuries and some of the younger players had a bit of difficulty last season. Hopefully this season will be a better one, not for my sake but for everyone else and I believe we can do a lot better than last year.”

The Knights’ newest addition is Marjan Todorovski, a former player from Macedonia. He will add plenty of speed to the side and is well known for his rebounding skills.

Knights team roster: Stevan Sipka (captain), Dejan Bogic, Vanja Jokanovic (co-captain), Dragan Blazevic, Miljan Miric, Milovan “Miki” Miric, Marjan Todorovski, Alex Glumac, Nenad Vlaisavljevic (traded by the Royals) and Luka.

Good luck to both sides.

02/01/07

ROYALS DMC CHAMPS!!!

I am extremely proud of our Royals and of their tremendous effort in the Grand Final against the Brisbane White Eagles in Adelaide (the hosts of this year's DMC). Our President, Stevan Sipka was dead right when he talked about "raising the bar" in 2006 and all of the hard work has paid off.

As most people don't know I was unable to participate in DMC 06 but Milan Vasiljevic did a great job in capturing all of the highlights on DVD. Watching the DVD made me feel so proud and the basketball that the Royals played was unbelievable.

The DVD not only has footage of the Royals' heroic voyage to the final but the Presentation as well. I urge Obilic fans to buy this great DVD as it has over 2 hours of action.

From start till finish, the Royals won every game in sight. Their first game was against Adelaide "Beograd"- who knocked them out of last year's semi final in Albury. Captain Stevan Sipka said that playing against Beograd would always be a tough one and the scores won't be far apart. He was right, Obilic won 46-42.

One of the biggest highlights from that game was the 3-point bomb from young gun Djordje Djordjevic in the final minute of play (which gave the lead to the Royals). According to Milan Vasiljevic, the shot "broke Adelaide's back" and at the same time was a "confidence booster".

The second game was against rivals the Obilic Knights. Unfortunately for the Knights, they were annihilated 62-20 by the unstoppable Royals. So maybe the "Knights Curse" is broken after all.

As a result of the Royals winning both games, they catapulted into the semis. After a day's break, they were ready to head into battle (just like the legendary Milos Obilic). The Royals faced against old rivals, the Melbourne White Eagles. The result ended in 56-41. Toward the end of the second half, the Royals dominated throughout the end.

Then there were two. The stadium was packed to witness the best game of the tournament: The Grand Final. Reigning Champs Brisbane White Eagles knew that playing the Royals wasn't going to be an easy one as they were desperate to cling onto the cup. The Royals on the other hand were cool as ice.

It was obvious from the start of the match that both sides would find it tough to out-do one another. Royals Centre Vlado Jankovic was the first one to score from both sides but after that, things got a little bit shaky as Brisbane scored two baskets in row from fast breaks.

The Royals know that Brisbane (if not) are the fastest team in the tournament and they had to be very alert in securing the ball at all times. To overcome the speediness of Brisbane, the Royals had to rely on two things: Shooting and rebounding.

The second half saw the Royals at their best apart from being down by 12 points with 8 minutes to go. Milan Vasiljevic told me that he stopped taping at one stage because he couldn't take it any longer.

Relying on their speed, Brisbane began to shut the Royals down offensively by scoring from a number of fast breaks from turnovers. Brisbane were almost certain that they would win back to back but the tables turned.

Former Red Star junior player Djordje Djordjevic came to the rescue. Young "Djole" scored three 3 points shots within the last 4 minutes of play. Not only did Djole bang the match winning shots but

so did shooting guard Milos Prlic (who initiated the shooting spree), Milos Salipur and Svetomir "Svetac" Gavrilovic (turned the 3 into a four-point play after being fouled). All up six 3s were made within dying minutes.

As The Royals regained their confidence, Brisbane went into panic mode. Despite the array of 3 points shots, the Royals had a few misses but the man who was responsible for the boards was none other than Vlado Jankovic. Due to Jankovic's extraordinary rebounding display, not one of the Brisbane players laid a finger on the ball.

Despite Brisbane fumbling with the ball, they managed to catch up by hitting a 3, taking the score to 61-59 (Royals way). As the Royals inbounded the ball, our Sveto got fouled and went to the line only to get one in (luckily Djole got both in before). Seconds later, the whistle blew and Obilic are the Champs again! Final score: 62-59.

To put the icing on the cake, Djordjevic was named MVP for this year's DMC 06. The left-hander top scored in the final with 20 points followed by Gavrilovic with 17. Despite President Sipka professing about his below par performance, he made every one of his free throws count. Other players who need a mention are Dejan "Glumac" Piljevic (Milan Vasiljevic described him as one of the wittiest and toughest player out there), Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic, Milos "The Showerman" Prlic, Nenad "Tripod" Vlaisavljevic and Dejan Bogic who all played well throughout the tournament.

Anyway, I wish everyone a Happy 2007 and all the best on behalf of the entire Obilic Basketball Club.

PS: OBILIC JE NEVERAVATAN TIM, NEVERAVATAN TIM, NEVERAVATAN TIM I SAMO NAPRED OBILIC!!!

22/12/06

ADELAIDE FINALLY HERE!!!

A year has passed and the wait is finally over for our boys. This DMC will see three teams participating from our club: Obilic Royals, Obilic Knights and the Under 16 boys. Due to injury and overseas travel, the women's team sadly had to pull out not long ago.

Club President Stevan Sipka says that a lot of hard work has been put in this year for Adelaide and he is feeling confident of matching up against the likes of Brisbane (Reigning Champions), Adelaide and Melbourne.

"I said from the start of the year that we needed to raise the bar a little," Sipka said. "So far this year we made it to the Grand Final of the Bankstown Competition (Winter) and despite losing, we still gained plenty of confidence from it."

Sipka said that he is looking forward to playing in Adelaide, because he missed out on playing the last time it was held in 1998. "It would be a different experience, so far we played in Sydney, Melbourne and just last year in Albury. It's good to see other cities hosting the tournament. Next year it will be held in Brisbane for the first time and we all can't wait for that."

The Royals will again be led by Club President and Captain Stevan Sipka, who is playing in the tournament for the twelfth time since its inception in 1993. One of Obilic's most experienced player, Milos Salipur, will be in charge of setting up the plays. To his aid he'll be backed up by

Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic, who is capable of playing both the guard and forward positions.

For the Royals' forward department, Vladimir Jankovic and Svetomir Gavrilovic, considered as one of the most important players on the side, will be at again, contesting for all of the boards and putting up points on the scoreboard. Wollongong boy Dejan Piljevic, known for his no-look passes and fakes will also be a vital asset to the game. The youngest player, Nenad Vlasisavljevic, who is known for his dunking skills will also be a great player to watch.

The Royals' rivals, The Knights are also expected to make an impact in the tournament. They are led by Captain Dragan Blazevic and Co-Captain Vladimir "Vanja" Jokanovic. Scoring machine Sinisa Skoric, along with US College bound Milos Prlic will be a vital force when it comes to outscoring the opposition. The forward department will consist of Miljan Miric and Sasa Kovacina, who are both committed to crashing the boards. Coming of the bench are Miki Miric and Dragan Kos, who are known for their long range three point bombs.

And last but not least, the Under 16 boys team. This team is full of young talent, especially with the likes of Predrag Milovanovic, Slaven Simic, Zoran Marcic, Dragan Dobric, Dejan Urosevic, Damir Trazivuk and Vladan Karasicevic. They've been training hard all year under the guidance of Milos and Zoran Salipur, Vanja Jokanovic and Dragan Blazevic. For most of these juniors it will be their first time playing in DMC and they're overly excited.

All teams will be coached by Zoran Salipur, who earlier this year sustained a knee injury that kept him out for most of the year. Salipur's goal is to go all the way to the grand final and to reclaim the trophy. Salipur, along with the rest of the club is still baring the pain of losing to Adelaide in the semi final last year.

Hopefully all of this year's hard work paid off for this major event. We shall wait and see.

23/11/06

THE ROYALS JUST TOO DAMN GOOD

The mighty Obilic Royals have waged victory over rivals the Obilic Knights for the second time this season however frustrations grew for both sides as the Draza Mihailovic Cup is only a month away.

After living with the "Knights Curse" for the past two years, the Royals stampeded over the Knights by 20 points with only 6 minutes to play. At one stage the Knights appeared to be almost certain that victory would be theirs but unfortunately it didn't work out that way.

The Royals started off well, with young gun Dejan Marjanovic [highest scorer for the Royals with 14 points] dominating the offence with his unmissable long range jumpers. Royals Captain Stevan Sipka continued to be a force at the top of the key but the biggest surprise of the first half was Vladimir Jankovic; known for his dominance in the paint, he was only held to 6 points.

Despite missing key players Vladimir Jokanovic [achilles heel], Sasa Kovacina [flu] and Dragan Kos [shoulder], the Knights were still able to match their opponent's intensity levels. One of the Knight's youngest players, Miki Miric [top scorer with 19 points] terrorised the Royals defence with his fast-break finishes; at the same time his older brother, Miljan was the workhorse when it came to crashing the boards.

Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic, continued with his never-ending brilliance at both ends of the

floor. A former Royal, The Gunner showed no compassion for his former team-mates – especially when it came to out-rebounding Jankovic on every occasion.

The start of second half saw a different side to the Knights. Despite their poor start in the first half, they were on a 5-0 run. Milos Prlic, Miki Miric and The Gunner were unstoppable in O. During the run the Royals were denied any chance of scoring – either by missing a shot or by turning over.

About 8 minutes into the game, Jankovic suffered a ankle injury while contesting for a rebound. At that moment the Knights' goal of winning seemed to be an easy task but were proved wrong.

The Royals began to pick up momentum while the Knights began to fall apart. With about 6.50 to go on the clock, the Knights lost all hope. The Royals' Dejan Piljevic, used his dazzling skills to outsmart the Knights' zone defence every time he got the ball. Marjanovic and the athletic Nenad Vlasisavljevic continued to lead the way till the final whistle.

So far this season [summer], eight rounds were played. The Royals won three games (both against the Knights) while the Knights are struggling week in week out with close misses. Both sides admitted that the season has been a disappointing one but they haven't lost hope yet. With DMC just around the corner, anything's possible.

16/08/06

GRAND FINAL, HERE WE COME!!!

“NEVER SAY DIE, NEVER SAY DIE!!!” WE'RE IN THE GRAND FINAL BABY WHOO HOO!!!!

Nothing beats that winning feeling especially when the refs are totally against you and the only thing that matters most is having the right attitude and by that I mean “NEVER SAY DIE!!!”

This I must say was one the most exciting semi finals that we have played in and what better way to win by beating the Aces. What also mattered most to us was that we had all the support we needed – THE CROWD.

This was our third win against the Aces, who were considered favourites to take out this year's Bankstown Winter Cup but we sure as hell proved them wrong (let's just say that they were considered favourites by those within the “inner sanctum” who's tacit approach was to make sure that they go all the way to the play offs).

Now we all know how the finals can be electrifying, especially when it's down to the wire and the stakes are high, you think to yourself “who's gonna win, who's gonna take that shot etc”. Well those thoughts eventually run through the back of everyone's mind. Imagine how everyone felt when we not only had to overcome the entire match but battle it out in not only one but two, yes two overtimes!!!.

In the first half, we started to lead the way and we're playing man to man defence because these boys love to play dirty, and when I say dirty think of Tong Po from Kickboxer. Any old how, our President Mr. Stevan Sipka was at his best; scoring with his swish mid-range jumpers.

After 8 minutes of play, the Aces picked up some momentum and began firing from beyond the arc. They caught up till it was 14-14 and from that point on the game was more of a

shooting/rebounding contest. Needless to say, not only did we have to battle it out with the Aces, we had to try and maintain our cool but how is that possible if you have refs from hell.

Yes, as most you know the refs can undoubtedly win the game in most cases. Need I remind you of the refereeing fiasco in the recent 2006 FIFA World Cup or the blundering decisions made in the NRL? Anyway, with refs missing out on one of the most important calls of the game, it really frustrates the hell out of you, especially when you've got 20/20 vision.

Time and time again, our Captain was telling us to stay calm and to ignore the refs and just to play the game. But what can you do if the call goes against you? You can only just wait and hope that the ref amends his mistakes to make the right call, but that seems to be more of a miracle.

We already knew that we had no chance at getting the better half of the refs so we employed our very own "Never Say Die" approach. Yep, it's the same slogan incorporated in the Energizer Batteries advertisements. No matter how much they pushed us back, we kept on coming with a vengeance.

As I mentioned earlier, our game mainly revolved around shooting and rebounding. Because the refs refused to give us a chance to score some extra buckets at the free throw line, we had to work hard to get our rebounds from every "missed shot" and get the tip in.

Our point guard, Milos Salipur was the key in maintaining balance on every attack. He made sure that the ball was passed around, creating space for our key shooters such as Svetomir "The Saint" Gavrilovic, Vlado Jankovic and Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic. When it came to equalising or giving us the lead throughout the game no one did it better than those three.

The Saint, who misfired a few times in the early stages of the first half, almost became unstoppable when it came to shooting from beyond the arc. The Saint had 5 three-pointers added to his tally. Apart from putting up bombs, The Saint was instrumental in helping Vlado and Captain Sipka in pulling down the boards.

Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic was on fire throughout the entire night. Despite being battled and bruised like the rest of us, he kept on going like a Juggernaut, ignoring the pain and putting himself on the line for the team. During the last quarter and in overtime, The Gunner was instrumental in scoring the last minute buckets. Where all hope seemed lost, The Gunner kept it alive.

Vlado Jankovic, like our Gunner was also responsible for lowering the deficit. As I mentioned earlier, the refs seemed oblivious to the wave of arms hammering our players but that didn't matter to Jankovic. Towards the end of the first half, he sustained a gash on his right wrist from one of the Aces players who preferred nails over muscle as a means to out-rebound our Goliath. Yet again, Jankovic went on to be our leading rebounder and his inside scoring was no match for Jason Foster and the rest of the gang, including Brock Bywater.

Dejan Piljevic, who was diagnosed with the flu early last week put on a stellar performance. Piljevic wasn't quite sure whether he'd be playing but as he told me before the game, "It's the semi final, sick or not I am ready to kick some ass!" As soon as Piljevic got onto the court, his skills did the talking. His first shot came when he got double-teamed under the basket. No where to turn, he relied on his faking, the most powerful facet of his game. He put up a fake pass to the right a few times and before you know it, "Bob's your uncle", we're two points up.

Ohhh I totally forgot to mention someone else and that someone made us all go wild. Our rookie and young gun Nenad "Tripod" Vlasisavljevic played the best game of the entire season. Captain

Sipka was fully confident in starting the youngster in the starting five and he didn't disappoint. As most youngsters who come up to the highest tier, they are prone to make mistakes quite naturally but the teenage prodigy played like someone who's in their prime. Tripod rarely missed when it came to his jump-shots. He elevates so high into the air that trying to block him seems merely impossible. The biggest highlight of the night came when he threw down a two handed slam dunk during a fast break. He stole the ball from one of the guards and raced down like Speedy Gonzales. As he was getting near the basket one of the players caught up but it was too late. Just like watching the highlight reel from NBA Action, Tripod dunked on his face. Boy the crowd went crazy...even the parents jumped with their fists beating into the air.

The cheering, led by Miki Miric along with his brother Miljan, the Knights players and the parents inspired us big time. They knew what pressure we were under but their tumultuous support kept us going and we are truly grateful for their presence last night. Injured Knights guard and Vice President Mr. Zoran Salipur was screaming and instructing us on what to do till he could no longer talk. I admire the sacrifices made by everyone and it was worth it.

Going back to the refereeing ignominy, we along with our Obilic supporters were irritated. Textbook refereeing was a thing of the past. Nowadays, referees simply ignore the rules and make up their own. There have been many instances in last night's game where the referees failed to make the right calls. The majority of the calls that should've been called had to go our way but what can you do. Even though we are well known for our obsequious nature, we reached boiling point. We copped a few technical fouls and it wasn't any of our fault.

One of the most disheartening moments of the game came towards the end of the first half when referee Damien Stubbs failed to call an unsportsmanlike foul on Greg Barnes. We could've had the chance of sealing the game at the free throw line but here is how the situation went. There was 6 seconds remaining on the shot clock and the scores were levelled at 68, The Gunner was bringing the ball towards our end. Unfortunately, our Gunner's path was denied by Greg Barnes. Barnesy, without any hesitation whatsoever, did an Adrian Morely and deliberately used his shoulder to knock The Gunner to the ground. The incident occurred right next the sidelines and right in front of the crowd. Instead of blowing his whistle and handing out the unsportsmanlike, Stubbs who was not even a yard away refused to call it.

If I was to elaborate on the amount of fouls that the refs refused to call, the list would be longer than the entire article. Some of the Aces players kicked the ball out of bounds, which is deemed as a technical foul but yet again, it's totally out of our hands. Well actually they did get a tech foul. Towards the end of the second half, Jankovic was fouled on a made basket and was sent to the line to shoot one. One of the Aces made a colourful remark and Vlado was awarded two more shots. All three were successful.

As the old saying goes, "Revenge is the best dish served cold." Towards the end of the game we had Captain Sipka, Salipur and The Gunner sitting on the bench with five personals so it was up to The Saint, Vlado, Nenad, Dejan and myself to get ourselves to Grand Final.

I subbed on for Captain Sipka, who was shown "the door" by our hideous referees. This was it now or never. The last time we won the Bankstown Cup was back in 2001 and I didn't want the drought to continue.

My old junior team-mate, Vlado Jankovic confided in me and told me that "we're gonna make the grand final, you watch". I was like "yeah man, let's do it." Jankovic, who is one of the hardest marked players in the game, controlled the final four minutes. With our guards fouled out, Jankovic led the charge and devised a way to distract the Aces. I was waiting patiently in the paint as most

power forwards do then I waited for the opportune moment. Vlad was tripled teamed at the top of key and he fed the ball to me and I scored under the basket. We went straight back to D and our morale rose again and we weren't taking any prisoners this time. On our second attack, Vlad fed the ball to me on the key and I did a fade way jump shot in Jason Foster's face. From that point I felt the enormity of the crowds support and I knew that this was Judgment Day for the Aces. To put the icing on the cake, Vlad was again tripled teamed and fed the ball to me and I finished it off.

Boy, we were so ecstatic. We had a number of factors that contributed to the way we played. One was obviously the crowd; second, our self belief that we can make it despite our obstacles and thirdly our Captain Sipka.

Before the start of the second and last overtime period, Captain Sipka said "Guys, we play together and we die together ... let's get out there and beat these guys!"

We couldn't have asked for a better day and as The Vice President Zoran Salipur stated, "The best game of the century."

Last night's result was unprecedented in our seven year history. It was our first ever double overtime game. You know what they say? There's first time for everything.

Our grand final is next week and it's important for us to remain relaxed and to be prepared come Monday night.

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

29/07/06

KNIGHTMARE FINALLY OVER!

After two antagonising years and four consecutive losses, the Royals finally took revenge in one of the biggest upsets in the Royals – Knights' derby history, winning 77 – 43.

The Royals were unstoppable as they dominated in all areas of the game. From the start of the first half it was pretty much neck in neck like the previous two games but as the clock ticked away the Royals outclassed the Knights like there was no tomorrow.

The Knights were in desperate need of key players Milos Prlic, Sinisa Skoric (currently on the US tour) and Stefan Stojadinovic (ankle injury). With their absence, the Knights lacked fire power and really had to up the ante.

For the Royals, they were without key player Milos Salipur who pulled out in the last minute because of the flu. At first the Royals weren't quite sure how they would cope without their point guard but the Royals' "never say die attitude" took over.

Royals Captain Stevan Sipka yet again proved that age was no barrier as he top scored with 21 points. The 36 year-old veteran played as if he was a teenager, barely missing a shot and leading the way in rebounding. Despite the Knights' knowing perfectly well of what Sipka is capable of, they were outsmarted by his phenomenal playing ability.

Too add further embarrassment to the Knights humiliating loss, the President fired three 3 pointers

in a row – from the same spot! The Knights along with their crowd support were left gasping for air. How can they allow the same thing to recur not once, not twice but three times?

Even though the Royals seemed to be the favourites in the early stages of the game they first had to shutdown the Knights' key players. Point guard Dejan Marjanovic (top scorer for the Knights with 21) and his partner in crime Vladimir "Vanja" Jokanovic were hard to contain as they were able to penetrate the Royals' defence on many occasions.

Marjanovic, one of the Knight's most aggressive players proved to Vladimir Jankovic that height advantage didn't matter to him at all as he drove passed him a number of times for a reverse lay-up. If it wasn't a reverse lay-up then it was a fade away jumper – and at 99% of times it resulted in a swish. He added further problems by setting up a number of fast breaks that made it impossible for the Royals to catch up.

Jokanovic also wreaked havoc for the Royals' defence. Like Marjanovic he too lit it up by driving to the hole and if was unlucky at finding the shot he'd dish it out. Jokanovic made matters worse with his 3-point bombs. He also extended the Knights lead a few times in the early stages of the first half.

As the second half kicked into gear, the Royals really started to fire up. The frustration that the Knights caused for the Royals started to work to its benefit and every player had a piece of the action.

Royals power forward Misel Strbac was as powerful as Shaq as he gave the Royals some easy buckets inside the key. Too further annoy the Knights; he grabbed the majority of the offensive boards and created second chances for his team-mates.

Svetomir "Svetac" Gavrilovic stuck to his usual routine – shooting and making every shot count. He's one of those players who has the ability to find the open space and can shoot the ball without any distractions.

Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic took over Milos Salipur's role as point guard and did extremely well. His lightning quick speed helped set up most of the Royals' fast breaks.

The Royals' flashiest player, Dejan Piljevic was the man when it came to applying pressure to the ball handlers. Dejan Marjanovic grew more tired and tired each time as he was heavily marked by Piljevic. It also led to him turning the ball over a number of times.

As for me I had a few assists here and there and I would've put the icing on the cake if it wasn't for Vanja Jokanovic drawing the foul on me. There was about 5 seconds to go and I was at the three-point line, ready to take that shot. The ball went in the hoop (at the point I thought it was going to be a swish) then the son of a gun bounced off the rim.

I then went to the charity stripe only to get one of the three shots in. I had the right technique it was just that the Knights began to sledge and distract me by saying "Rick James Bitch!"

Ahh well, the main thing is that we won and we ended the two year drought. It most certainly put a smile on all of our faces, not too mention the President.

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

21/07/06

CAN THE KNIGHTMARE END?

Over the years the Royals proved to everyone that they circumvent any obstacle when it comes to winning games but the reality is that when it comes to playing the Knights it proves to be a different story.

The Royals have lost four consecutive games in a row against their rivals and they are hoping to end this two year drought come Monday night. It almost seems to be an impossible task to beat the Knights as they unequivocally prove to be the better team.

When the current Knights roster is taken into consideration, they are without forwards Sinisa Skoric and Milos Prlic who are currently on a basketball tour in the US. The two rising stars are one of key players of the side and it would almost seem viable for the Royals to win but think again.

Royals discard Zoran Salipur also won't be returning to the court but he's assumed the position of head coach for the Knights. Nicknamed "Guus" by Obilic President Mr. Stevan Sipka, Salipur's coaching is almost as affective as his playing style and he knows how to employ the right tactics to win.

Obilic President and Royals Captain Mr. Stevan Sipka said that even if the Knights don't have their best players, they're still capable of upsetting other teams.

"They're easily up there with the best teams of the competition and they continue to improve every season," said Mr. Sipka.

"Their confidence is unbreakable and it is often difficult to expose any of their weaknesses. We have to try to shout them down offensively and defensively."

It's going to be one hell of a match and it will all come down not only to experience but which team's got the right formula to finish on top.

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

26/05/06

ROYAL KNIGHTMARE FINALLY OVER

The Royals bounced back from their 2 game losing streak to beat the B/S Smicks 72-57.

The win comes after the Royals' devastating loss to the Knights, who won their 4th consecutive derby match in a row.

The Royals were searching for answers after the Knights started to score on every occasion at half time but we couldn't come up with the right winning formula on the white board.

Within minutes of the game, Knights' point guard Zoran Salipur suffered a horrible knee injury that forced him to sit out for the rest of the game. He might be out for up 6 - 8 weeks depending on rate of recovery.

So young gun Marjanovic stepped up and began to dominate. He drove to the hole and scored almost everytime. No matter how many defenders were on him, it didn't matter. He burn his defenders and finish it off with some of the most incredible lay-ups you would ever see and that would make you say "get the hell outta here man".

Knights forward Stefan Stojadinovic was impressive, hitting some big shots especially beyond the arc. The rest of the Knights played brilliantly, there was no denying it. I personally take my hat off to them.

We were failing to hit the shots and to get our rebounds for second opportunities. From that point on we were struggling because of the Knights' energetic level of play.

Jankovic and Mr. Sipka at once stage were failing to get some baskets from close range. In the last 10 minutes of the first half, we only scored 4 points while they scored 20. So we knew we were going up a creek without a paddle.

Even our very own shooting expert from downtown, Sveto Gavrilovic failed to deliver the goods so who could we turn to?

At half time our President and Captain Mr. Stevan Sipka told us that we needed to fight back and to find out what their weaknesses are. From my point of view they didn't have any they just played their game.

Knights captain Vanja Jokanovic also caused a lot of havoc for the Royals defence. At one stage we had up to 3 players trying to guard him and at the same trying to deny his shots but our height proved nothing.

I admit we did feel down but we hung in there and fought till the end. Just like many great teams out there we too had our own mistakes. We made some silly bad passes that led to a number of bad turnovers so even the most basic parts of basketball was letting us down. We also didn't box out as much which led to the Knights scoring from their second opportunites.

At the end the better team won.

Anyway after our disappointing loss we returned to high come next week.

Our energy and confidence was back on track when we played the Smicks, who have a number of representative players from the NSW State League.

We led the entire game and the defence we played was unbelievable. At 90 percent of all times the ball was in our hands when it came to crashing the boards.

Mr. Sipka went back to his "nothing but net" shots. As soon as his first shot went in, it was a clear message that a psychic would not be needed to predict the winner.

Jankovic was back to his low post brilliance. Whether it be a hook shot, fade away, leaner etc he made the ball go through.

Sveto, or should I say The Saint (By the way I gave him that nickname) returned to his form after a lacklustre performance from the previous week. Along with The Gunner they were battling it out from three point territory up against the Smicks' top shooters Chris Neal and Adi Causevic. I tell

you what it was like watching The Darts World Championships where each time the dart would hit bullseye.

Our former Partizan player, Milan Vrankovic also added some spark from the outside as well, not too mention his no look passes which an absolute treat. So for those who witnessed him play, it was better than watching the top 10 plays of the week (even our Royals supporters can attest to that).

Piljevic played great especially after coming back from a knee injury that left him sidelined for 2 weeks.

Young gun Vlaisavljevic (a.k.a. Tripod) was a speed machine. The moment someone shot the ball from the Smicks he was the first man back waiting for an easy shot. He put the "fast" back in fastbreak.

As for myself I did just about everything. I stealed the ball a few times (one of them was with my left hand, proving to others that I am ambidextrous), scored a few buckets, dished out a few assists and most importantly I crashed the boards. At the end of the game I was rewarded with a free Mintie.

To sum it up, it was a good win not too mention we got our "winnin' feelin' back".

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

Until next time goodbye for now

06/05/06

ROYALS' ROLE

The Obilic Royals have now won 3 games in a row (we drew in the first round of the season) and so far we are unbeatable. It's all got to do with the confidence factor and not too mention the positive approach we all have at training.

Everyone has contributed well for the past few weeks, whether it is in shooting or rebounding but one thing is for sure and it is evident from the sidelines, our defence has improved.

Just like our President, Mr. Stevan Sipka said in the past few months that we all need to improve on defence because if we want to win games we have to stop the other from scoring as much as they can.

Our confidence levels have risen significantly and so has our fitness. We have all adopted the 'never say die' attitude and we are using it to our advantage every time we step onto the court. No matter how tall, quick or strong the other team is we won't back down no matter what.

So far our shooting from the perimeter has improved slightly. Mr. Stevan Sipka shooting display has been phenomenal. It doesn't matter if he is double, triple or quadruple teamed, he still manages to get that ball through the hoop. It is no wonder why many young centre or forwards are envious of his ability to this.

Our other well known shooters such as Piljevic, Gavrilovic, Salipur and Kuzmanovic have also

been responsible for keeping other teams out of reach when it comes to catching up on the scoreboard.

Another important factor in our game is teamwork. Mr. Stevan Sipka couldn't have emphasised this any further at every training session and at every game we played. On the court everyone has their own job to do. For us big guys we need to concentrate on rebounding and inside scoring. For the guards, they create plays (even us big guys set up some great plays. E.g. Stevan Sipka's alleyoop passes to Vladimir Jankovic is a treat) and hitting the jump shots from beyond the key.

Speaking about shooting beyond the key I myself did exactly that on Monday night against Drunken State, not once, not twice but three times! Since I mostly talk about most of my other teammates, I just spend a paragraph or so on how I made the crowd go wild.

On Monday night against Drunken State I decided to take my game to a different level. Instead of hanging around the key boxing out, grabbing boards etc, I thought about taking some shots from the outside. We were up by as many as 20 point and I am like "What's the risk anyway?"

In the early stages of the game I hit a baseline jumper and everyone went wild but there's still more to come. Towards the end of the second half, I told Sveto and Vlado that I was sick of them shooting those threes all the time and that I wanted to have a crack.

Vlado was inside the paint and I set myself around the 45 degree mark and without further ado, he passed me the ball and I said "This is it show time baby!" The next thing you know, SWISH!

From that moment on the whole crowd were on their feet yelling out "BRAVO GLUMAC, TO MAJSTORE". I then started to blow kisses to the crowd as I was running back.

Not long after (probably around 2 minutes) from the same spot, Sveto gave me the ball and I lit up. The ball bounced a bit to the side of the ring and fell through. This time the crowd was louder than before, probably exceeding past 120 decibels.

I was jumping for joy as if I did a chilena in soccer. It felt so good seeing the crowd standing up whistling, singing patriotic songs about me and if memory serves me correct some chick yelled out "GLUMAC, I WANT YOUR BABY". I could've been hallucinating but I tell you what, the crowd was crazy about me, I felt like I was a Rock Star.

West Sydney Razorbacks coach Mark Watkins told me after the game, "Nice shooting Sabonis, you really got the touch". I was completely flattered but enough talk about me.

Other highlights from the game were when Vlado Jankovic threw down a couple of slam dunks. One of them was a two handed reverse dunk that the teams playing on the other court stopped and took notice. I actually saw a couple who were about to do the French kiss when all of a sudden they turned their heads only to be amazed at what they saw. Nice going Vlad.

Furthermore, The Knights so far have won 2 and lost 2. They had a better start to the season than the last one and they too are playing with as much pride and passion as the Royals.

Knights Captain Vladimir "Vanja" Jokanovic is impressed by the team's contribution and the amount work ethic that is displayed on the court.

So far Stefan Stojadinovic and has been dominant inside the paint and same goes for the ever improving Dejan Marjanovic, the Knights' point guard who's unstoppable when it comes to playing

one on one. Milos Prlic has also been vital in helping the team with not only their scoring but in defence as well.

The Knight's workhorse, Dejan Bogic is doing an incredibly good job when it comes to restoring balance on the team. If the team is lacking progress in any stages of the game, he will simply call a time out and tell his troops where they're going wrong.

To other news former Royals point guard Zoran Salipur has now joined forces with the Knights but it was unfortunate that in his debut it resulted in a loss (Thanks to the refereeing for that matter) but not to worry the season is far from over.

That's it for me now. I hope you enjoyed the article and please don't think for a second that I am of an egocentric nature. I am a giver not a receiver, in other words I would rather give credit to others rather than blow my own trumpet. I was pretty ecstatic and I just had to let other Obilic Fans know about my 3-point shooting display.

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

Until next time goodbye for now.

15/04/06

NEW SEASON NEW ADDITIONS

It was seen as an ok start to this year's Bankstown Winter Cup as the Obilic Royals drew 60 all with RWC Cartel and the Obilic Knights losing to the B/S Smicks 108-94 but don't let this paragraph fool you there is a lot more to come this year.

NOTE: Against RWC Cartel, our President Mr. Sipka, made some baskets by yelling out "Danilovic". It is one of his favourite moves. It happens when he sees the ball on the outside so he runs straight down the middle of the court then he receives the pass and lands at the charity stripe on one foot and yells out "Danilovic".

In the second round both the Royals and Knights emerged victorious against Oatley Thunderdogs (71-43) and Drunken State respectively.

It's a long road ahead so expect many more wins (fingers crossed). Now I shall turn to some exciting changes to our club.

NOTE: The Royals did make it the semi-finals of the Bankstown Summer Cup but had to pull out due to some of the players' obligations.

As most of you know by now there has always been a healthy rivalry between the Royals and Knights despite our unbreakable friendship but there has been some controversy especially with Svetomir "Blacktown Boy" Gavrilovic who has considered playing for the Royals this season.

The Knights captain Vladimir "Vanja" Jokanovic wasn't impressed by the decision but has vowed that the Royals will not have it easy when the derby comes around in the not so distant future.

"He has left our beloved team to play for them ... %#@! ... but you watch what's gonna happen to

them,” said a smiling Jokanovic.

“We have won the last 3 derby matches in a row and now that our leading scorer has stabbed us in the back ... we are more determined to dominate this league even without him.”

“Revenge is the best dish served cold.”

NOTE: How do you think I felt when I wrote this part of the story especially when I am playing for the Royals?

Our President, The Honourable Mr. Stevan Sipka couldn't express much sympathy for the Knights with Sveto's decision to change sides.

“Boli mi %#@!” said Mr. Sipka with a growl.

“They have enough quality players to kick any one's butt and you know what? We are still known as the ‘Mighty Obilic’ side, take that Deki.”

Despite the arguing between the President and other members from the Knights they all went to the pub afterwards and drank to ‘The Kingdom Of Serbia’ if you all know what I mean by that.

Anyway enough of the “Blacktown Boy” debacle (every time I write Blacktown Boy I think of Rambo Amadeus's song Balkan Boy) the Royals have acquired Nenad “Tripod/Adonis” Vlaisavljevic yep the bloke who has his sights on prohibiting the use of singlets in the game of basketball.

“Tripod” has played incredibly well for the past 2 games. In both games he has scored some good buckets by going hard to the basket and shot some mid range jumpers. His speed allows him to get to the right places and expect more of him throughout the season. He can out jump many players and if he was to try hard enough he might as well land on the ring itself.

For the Knights their new players are Stefan Stojadinovic who is new to the club and Milos Prlic (played for the Royals at the DMC 2005) and Nenad “Neso” Milovanovic.

Stojadinovic is a former teammate of mine from the good ol' days at Bankstown and from what I can tell you he is damn good. A left hander he usually plays at the 4 (for those who have been watching the NBA it's a Power Forward) position is a solid player and has some ‘get the hell outta here’ moves from under the basketball that will make your jaw fall to the ground. He is also good on the boards (especially on the offensive end where he can tip the ball in pretty easily).

On the other hand Prlic's dynamic style of play will be a big boost for the Knights. Just like his counterpart (Vlaisavljevic) he too has a high vertical leap. Can shoot from outside and can dominate inside the paint. He is a solid rebounder and is an outstanding passer. Along with Stojadinovic, their presence in the paint will be a big barrier to other teams.

Milovanovic is also another great add to this re-polished Knights side. A quick guard he is not afraid of penetrating through the key, especially when being surrounded by bigger, meaner and uglier players. The P-Plater is pretty aggressive when it comes to playing D and is good at finishing off the fast break, another way of increasing the Knights option of scoring.

Savo Todorovic, Nemanja Kovacina and Jovan “The Punisher” Dudukovic will not be playing for the Knights this year due to other obligations.

So here is the current roster of both teams:

Royals:

The Honourable Mr. Stevan Sipka (c)

Milos Salipur

Misel Strbac

Aleks "The Gunner" Kuzmanovic

Svetomir "Blacktown Boy" Gavrilovic,

Vladimir "Vlado/Vladica/Vlad" Jankovic

Milan Vrankovic

Dejan Piljevic

Nenad "Tripod/Adonis" Vlasisavljevic

Alex "The Magician" Glumac

Knights:

Vladimir "Vanja" Jokanovic (c)

Dejan "The Sidekick" Bogic

Dejan Marjanovic

Milivoje Markovic

Milos Prlic

Stefan Stojadinovic

Nenad "Neso" Milovanovic

Dragan Blazevic

Oh, I forget to mention something. When the Knights were playing Drunken State, Vanja produced a buzzer beater from half way at the end of the first half. The whole crowd (ok I'll be honest this time, the Obilic supporters and people sitting from the other side) went bananas.

Just on a quick note, Zoran Salipur will be coming back from his exile in Los Angeles, USA. This happened when he was overthrown by the de-centralised movement led by a man by the codename of C.I.B.O.N.A. Salipur was stripped of his post as Vice-President and was replaced by Vanja Jokanovic.

A "Tripartite Pact" was signed on the 25th of March, 2005 between Zoran Salipur, Dejan Bogic and The Honourable Mr. Stevan Sipka where it was agreed that if either team was to lose in a derby, the loser will shout the winner dinner at Madera if not certain consequences will apply. But what happened when the Royals lost to the Knights back in September, everyone else forgot about the pact that was signed. C.I.B.O.N.A waited patiently till the end of the DMC 2005 to make his move.

The Honourable Mr. Stevan Sipka couldn't do anything at that time so he told Salipur that an "Obilic Council" will be set up in exile in Los Angeles and that things will be sorted out.

The Honourable Mr. Stevan Sipka and C.I.B.O.N.A came to some sort of agreement that the club is in need of their Vice President. Mr. Sipka said that he misses Salipur's long range passes; his crossovers and how he used to make him have "Goosebumps" when he would shoot beyond the arc when both sides were tied.

C.I.B.O.N.A couldn't agree more and that he was wrong. He said that he should've reminded Salipur that it was the Royals turn to shout the Knights dinner. Ahh well.

Anyway I am Alex "The Magician" Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

Goodbye for now.

PS: The last few paragraphs are non-fictional?.

8-2-06

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

What better way to start of the New Year with a resolution – Why Not? It's the perfect time because it's fresh and it can make planning your goals a lot easier so in the end you can be satisfied with your desired result.

Whether it's trying to lose weight by cutting down on deep fried chips and chocolate or simply trying to save money for an overseas trip by spending less at the pokies, you'll achieve your goals no matter what.

Anyway I'll stop beating you all around the bush and get to the point – Our President, Mr. Stevan Sipka has unveiled a new plan to target fitness in order to make the club more competitive for this year's DMC which will be held in Adelaide.

Mr. Sipka was a little dissatisfied with the performance of both the Royals (lost in the semi-final against Adelaide) and the Knights (who unfortunately lost all 3 games). He says that the club “needs to raise the bar a little” with other teams such as Brisbane and Adelaide, who were the fittest teams in the tournament.

In order for this to be achieved, Mr. Sipka says that the focus must be entirely placed on increasing the team's energy levels to withstand not only one but two games. We may start of playing well but as soon as the petrol starts to run out, we can be sitting ducks despite being aware of what the game situation is.

He also stressed the mental side of the game also has to change. By that he means to adopt a “never say die attitude” approach for the club. This will give us an edge in thinking more positively and to stay on track rather than panicking if we are being flogged by 30 points with 10 minutes to go.

By intensifying training levels, it will improve our club's conditioning and stamina. We all have the ability to play the game but unless we can overcome fatigue, we won't make the final come DMC time.

Apart from working on our fitness, we need to concentrate on our game principles, especially on defence. As the famous oxymoron adage goes, “the best offence is defence”, meaning- that defence is the key to winning the game. It's a matter of “we need to score more and make them score less”.

As our fitness improves, so does our thinking. And that's when the “mental toughness” approach kicks in. When you're equally fit as the other team, you can match up with their intensity and anticipate on what their next move will be either on the defensive or offensive end.

There is no doubt that training will be a lot harder but it will only benefit us in the long run. Going back to what I said from the start about New Year Resolutions, it's all about making sacrifices to get the rewards in the end.

Now enough of me sounding like Dr. Phil, let us look to some of the young guns that are

progressing through the ranks at our club.

We all know that in this day and age, kids are our future; same goes here. Over the past few years there have been a number of juniors who are booming with talent, playing extraordinary good basketball and have what it takes to play with the big guys.

The training conducted by Milos and Zoran Salipur have transformed the “cadets” into all round basketballers, exhibiting an array of skills that can only be matched by older players.

Mr. Sipka added it’s also vital to teach the juniors that showing good sportsmanship and the right attitude are important aspects of the club in maintaining its reputation as a respectable club.

“We want to make them not only better players but also better individuals”, Mr. Sipka said.

“We are teaching them the Obilic spirit of play with the ‘never say die’ approach but with fair play and sportsmanship as well.”

So far Dejan Marjanovic and Nemanja Kovacina have acquitted themselves well with the Knights in Division 1 at Bankstown. Throughout the year there will be more juniors who will be playing for both the Royals and Knights.

Some of the rising players who are ready to take that step are Stefan Kljajevic, Milos Prlic, Nenad (Adonis) Vlaisavljevic, Miso Simpraga, Dusan Gusevac, Nenad (Neso) Milovanovic and Milovan (Miki) Miric. Along with Marjanovic and Kovacina, they won the Under 18 boys division in last year’s DMC.

Kljajevic, Vlaisavljevic and Prlic played a cameo role for the Knights and Royals respectively at last year’s DMC. Kljajevic, who is left-handed has a nice shot from the perimeter and can post up in the key. Has a nice combination of inside moves and can handle the rock as well as a guard. He is also good on the boards and can throw down a dunk or two.

Nenad Vlaisavljevic is one of the most acrobatic of the lot. He has an array of mind blowing dunks from catching it off the backboard and doing a reverse to putting the ball between his legs and doing a one hander. His jumping ability allows him to out-rebound the opposition and to swat the ball. Known as Adonis, he is finely chiseled and if he had his way, he would prohibit the use of singlets in the game.

Another player who sports a muscular physique and who can dunk with style is Milos Prlic. His quickness makes him a danger in both offence and defence, especially when it comes to the fast break when he is unstoppable. With his leaping ability, his rebounding is vital in stopping the opposition from getting a second chance at shooting. Prlic has a cool temperament but every time he gets that ball into his hands, the aggression takes over.

For other players such as Miso Simpraga, Dusan Gusevac, Nenad Milovanovic and Milovan (Miki) Miric, their chances are not far off but I’ll provide you all with some more information about them next time.

In conclusion (yeah, I know it sounds like a typical start to the last paragraph in an essay as exemplified by high school students), Mr. Sipka wants to improve the club’s fitness levels to be more competitive when come DMC time and that he will promote some of the younglings to either the Royals or the Knights side.

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

Goodbye for now.

04-01-6

WE ARE STILL THE CHAMPIONS – TO SOME DEGREE

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Brisbane White Eagles for winning their first DMC title, great achievement.

Unfortunately for us Obilic Royals we lost to the Adelaide side in the semi final (44-39). It was a hard fought game where everyone played with their hearts on their sleeve but in the end we couldn't shut them down offensively.

Full credit goes to Zoran Salipur who led the way but unfortunately was ejected in the early stages of the game due to some poor refereeing decisions (I don't want to say too much due to defamatory reasons). He was unstoppable from the perimeter especially when it came to giving us the lead at some stages in the first half.

Svetomir Gavrilovic also needs a mention. His hard work under the basket solved most of the rebounding work that needed to be done. He made sure that every shot that missed had to get back in its rightful place – the ring and he did that.

Dejan Piljevic also sweated it out especially on the fast breaks by outrunning everyone else to get the easy lay-up.

Vladimir Jankovic played solid inside the paint by producing a few good buckets.

Oleg Kokotovic, Milos Prlic, Milan Vrankovic, Aleks Kuzmanovic, Milos Salipur and myself did all we can to try and win the game but it didn't prevail.

And finally another player who also deserves full credit, it's our very own President and Captain – Mr. Stevan Sipka. The DMC veteran played the entire 40 minutes and seemed to be “tireless”. He contributed in every aspect of the game, whether it be rebounding or shooting. He notched up a few good shots to keep us in the lead and rebounded well.

But as the old saying goes, “There's always next year.”

Secondly for us, it's not all that bad. Our young guns made sure that we needed to fill some space of our Trophy Cabinet.

The Under 18 Boys retained their championship status by beating St. George (39 – 20), great stuff boys really proud of you and we hope to see you retain that status for next year's DMC.

Their style of play was hard to contain and they were unbeaten throughout the entire tournament.

Point guard Dejan Marjanovic was unstoppable with his set plays. Milos Prlic (we love to call him Milos Petrovic – God knows why) was consistent from the floor with his shooting touch and Nenad Vlasisavljevic's (a.k.a. Adonis) rebounding display was phenomenal. They were well supported by William (Illija), Stefan Kljajevic, Dusko, Neso Milovanovic, Miso, Sasa Milanko, Nemanja

Kovacina and Miki Miric.

And last but not least – The Women's team has finally got the title back after 5 years – and what way to do it, in style beating rivals the Melbourne White Eagles (37 – 35).

And it's all thanks to Tamara Djeric who put the icing on the cake by nailing 2 free throws in overtime. She has now become a part of DMC folklore.

Talk about boys playing rough, these girls played like it was judgment day. The level of physicality was intense; I'd give it a 10/10.

Led by Dragana Filipovic, the girls played sensationally well and all of the players contributed equally – with every player getting the piece of the action whether it was contesting for a rebound, dishing out assist or bumping out bodies.

Centre Daniela Kljajevic dominated under the basket and after the final buzzer she yelled out, “We finally did it after 5 long years ... what a feeling. We fought hard and we worked so hard for this, whoo hoo, I love this club”.

Natasa Filipovic, Tamara Djeric, Natasa and Aleksandra Punosevac, Nena Culic all played great with aggression and positive thinking.

I would personally like to thank the following:

- The crowd including the parents and fans (especially the Obilic Groupies – Vojislav Jesic, Mitar and Marko “Bis Mir” Djuric along with their cousin Stanko and Peter Ciric) for being boisterous supporters and for singing the Obilic theme song.
- Pedge Pjanic for keeping the DMC tradition alive and helping us in promoting the Obilic website to others.
- Oleg Kokotovic (the founder of our club name) for leading the charge with his own supporting songs that everyone can sing: “NE PRICAJ SA NJIM NA BODI GA, NA BODI GA, NA BODI GA!!!).
- Milos and Zoran Salipur for training the juniors each week and to help them prepare for the DMC.
- Milan Vasiljevic for making this website possible and dedicating his time by putting up all the news and pictures and allowing me to have my own column.
- And most of all our newest mate and mascot, Goran Gajic (or Goran Gajic-Petrovic-Mandic) who made us laugh insanely, especially when he yelled out “REFEREE HOW ARE YOU?. Not only was that hilarious, his “one footed jump-shots” and one handed 3 point shots at timeouts was a treat.

I wish everyone a Sretan Bozic and a Sretna Nova Godina and that everyone has a great 2006 filled with a lot of joy and happiness. We hope that DMC 06' will be bigger and better- ADELAIDE
HERE WE COME!!!

I am Alex Glumac and you've reading the Glumac Report.

Until next time goodbye for now.

PS: OBILIC JE NEVERAVATAN TIM, NEVERAVATAN TIM, NEVERAVATAN TIM!!!

23-12-05

LATEST ADDITION

The weather is getting hotter and so is the Obilic Royals team, especially with the return of Oleg Kokotovic. The brainchild of our beloved club will fill the void left by Misel Strbac for this year's DMC at Albury.

Known to everyone as the "Irresistible Force", he will back up the Salipur brothers. He will mainly play at the point and occasionally on the wing.

One of the toughest guards out there, Kokotovic's philosophy on playing offence is simple - "there are no barriers". No matter how strong or tight the defence is, he can always "break down the wall".

Apart from penetrating the D, Oleg can also hit the 3 from anywhere making him unpredictable.

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

Until next time Goodbye for now.

14 -12 -05

It's the most exciting time of the year, of course we all know it's summer and the heat is on and what good ol' way of enjoying it is by going down to the beach - WRONG!!!

The real enjoyment of summer is just around the corner, and to many of us it's been the highlight for the past decade where some of the best Serbian basketball can be seen outside the great nation itself. It's called the Draza Mihajlovic Cup.

Since its inception back in 1993, the DMC has portrayed some of the best talent that basketball has to offer. Players such as Vlado Gak, Steve Simic (Melbourne White Eagles), Zoran and Milan Jaglica (Sokolovi) and not to mention our very own Milan Vrankovic and Stevan Sipka (Obilic), have all played a key part in each of their team's championships in the past DMC campaigns.

They have all become apart DMC folklore, not too mention they gave us many memories on what it's like to win the cup and above all – to lift the trophy above the crowd and to chant the lyrics to the team song (e.g. OBILIC JE NEVERAVATAN TIM!!!).

And yes we are the reigning champions, considering we've emerged victorious in Div 1, Div 2 and in the U/18 boys division in Melbourne last year. What a remarkable achievement.

At this year's DMC, we will be at it again to retain our reigning status and we have the teams to do it, whether if it's the men's division or the boys and girls division. We'll be a force to be reckoned with and I shall elaborate on each of the teams involved in this year's DMC.

Firstly we have the Obilic Royals, who won the 2002 and 2004 DMC, which were both held in Melbourne . The captain, our very own President, Mr. Stevan Sipka will again take charge. Not only is he known for his superb shooting touch and ability to hit the clutch shot, he can ignite the team spirit and can encourage his troops to get motivated and to overcome any adversity the team faces, especially when there's defensive pressure, he just knows how to counterattack the opposing team's tactics. Despite being one of the biggest players, Sipi can run the floor as well as any guard. Always consistent in both offence and defence, he doesn't seem to have an "off switch".

Along side Big Sipi are his generals Milos and Zoran Salipur (also the Vice President), who are superior ball handlers and can outwit any defensive player standing their way. Both of them can hit the J and can penetrate the zone and cause uproar in the opposing team's defensive preparations. They have excellent court vision and can easily find a way to feed their teammates the ball. Their defence can also cause havoc with anyone holding the ball, one blink and the ball is out of your hands.

On the wing and sometimes playing the point is Milan Vrankovic, yep the former Partizan player from Serbia . Known for his Bodiroga style of dribbling and being a consistent shooter, he too will be difficult to contain. With a cool mind, Vrankovic doesn't mind the pressure. Watch out for his no look passes, which is known to deceive his opponents.

Another guard but sometimes who plays like a forward is Aleks Kuzmanovic. Despite being a guard he can nearly out jump anyone when it comes to a rebound, not to mention his put backs. One of the quickest players you'll see around, he can easily position himself when it comes to shooting the J. In his dictionary, the words fear and fatigue do not exist due to his persistent hard work.

Back up guard Dejan Zivkovic will add a lot of intensity in the back court. A good dribbler, he is solid on the defensive end, he isn't afraid of penetrating the defence. A bulky guard, he doesn't get pushed around easily. He is also a consistent shooter and can pull down the boards against taller opponents.

Newly added forward/guard Dejan Piljevic will also be a major contributor in the scoring end. Very flashy and fearless, he can intimidate anyone with his amazing display of dribbling skills (very similar to that of the Globetrotters but only better). He never misses under the basket and he takes his opponents seriously. Can read the game well and knows how to react to different styles of play.

In the forward department, Misel Strbac is ranked as the ultimate work horse of the team. If no one is prepared to do the hard work, then he will step in. He puts on a Rodmanesque type rebounding display, both in defence and offence. He is always cautious when the team is under pressure and is an excellent communicator. He also has a nice mid-range jumpshot and always takes it hard to the basket. Along with Sipka, he is one of the toughest players to contest with.

In our centre department, well he is the only one; it's Vladimir Jankovic (a.k.a. Vlad, Vladica or Vlado). Speaking of playing centre, Jankovic can play any position on the court. Known for his versatility, he can be unstoppable in the paint and when the pressure is on, he isn't afraid of taking his game out to the perimeter, either by taking the shot or playing one on one. He has an array of inside moves, not to mention his mind blowing dunks (note: at the tender age of 16, Jankovic won the 2000 DMC Slam Dunk competition in Sydney). What also makes Vlado an extraordinary player is that he is ambidextrous; he can shoot with his left hand as well as his right when close to the

basket. He can also put on a good rebounding display and can block pretty easily. He is also a member of the West Sydney Razorbacks development squad.

And finally it's the outspoken, outrageous and unbelievable Alex Glumac. Okay I am exaggerating. I usually play forward/centre and my strengths are shooting (mid range), rebounding (only when no one is under the basket), bumping into players (from my team and the opposing) and dishing out assists (usually around 4 per game). I am also known as the immovable object or simply as Glumac, because people believe that I am prone to "acting out" certain scenarios on and off the court. Despite my speed, I am always capable of producing good plays that are of impeccable timing.

Okay let us move onto the Obilic Knights. Also reigning champs from the last DMC in Div 2. This time they will be playing in Div 1. Despite that both us come from the same club, there's a healthy rivalry.

They are led by their point guard, Vladimir Jokanovic (a.k.a. Vanja). He is very aggressive and will do what ever it takes to win the game. When the game is on the line, his 3-point shots come in handy and is unstoppable when penetrating the defence. Very tough on defence, he can force the opponent to turnover the ball and can wreak havoc on great shooters. He also has excellent court vision and can jeer the team up when things go sour. Vanja can also play at the forward spot.

His sidekick is Dejan Bogic. Usually plays forward and at times brings the ball up to restore balance in the side. A very tough talker he makes sure that everyone is putting in a 110%. He is more concerned on the defensive end rather than on the offensive. Can be quite dynamic in the paint and is also a great ball distributor.

One of the Knights most diverse players is Svetomir Gavrilovic but he is mostly known as Sveto or only as "Blacktown Boy". I am not too sure on what position he plays because he is everywhere. He can shoot the ball, even beyond the arc if need be, can dunk in your face, perform Iverson crossovers and knows how to match his opponent's intensity. Can read the game very well and is a solid rebounder. He is a vital player and provides most of the scoring for the team, a great player to watch.

Sinisa Skoric, is one of the team's best shooters. Usually plays at forward and always knows when to open up and is one of the most consistent shooters on the team. Can play one on one very well with some fine ball handling and is quite quick on the fast break. A solid defender as well who won't rest until he shuts down the D. He often has a smile on his face when his shot swishes through the ring.

Savo Todorovic is another all rounder who doesn't mind bumping bodies in the paint. A good shooter, Todorovic can find many routes to the basket to get the easy lay-up. His quickness is a vital asset on the court as he never fails to be at the right time when he is needed most. Also hustles well on the defensive end.

The Knight's oldest and one of the most experienced players is Jovan Dudukovic. But as the saying goes "age shall not weary them". He can be a great scoring threat inside the paint and seems to be unblockable at times. Very fit and very aggressive he doesn't mind putting the dirt in the opponent's face.

Young guns Nemanja Kovacina and Dejan Marjanovic are playing well beyond their years. Kovacina who mainly plays at the guard position is very quick for someone of his height. Has a nice shooting touch and plays aggressively on the offensive end. He is accompanied by Marjanovic, also teammates from the under 18's squad. Marjanovic has incredible skills that can be matched by

players older than him. He often backs up captain Vanja. He has quick hands and great court vision. Out of his arsenal, his 3-point shots are the most deadly.

Another experienced player is Dragan Blazevic. He has got a soft shooting touch and would rather dish it out to help his teammates rather than shooting it himself. His experience and in-depth knowledge of the game will guide the younger players and provide them with a lot of advice. He is also one of the team's best communicators.

Forward Sasa Kovacina is known for his care-free style of play but is known to stir it up for his opponents. He can provide good scoring options under the basket and is effective on the boards.

Minja Markovic will be one of the hardest players to reckon with. His aggressive style of play has often scared the opposition. He always takes it hard to the basket and often takes about 2 to 3 players with him, which usually results in a foul. At most times it's "and 1" for him. Can also hit the bucket from mid-range territory.

Wow, what teams we have. All of them are of equal standards and they have the right package. There's not a thing missing. Every player provides a formidable presence by overshadowing their opponents. And that's what makes a complete basketball team with everyone of equal talent and exact knowledge of the game.

Anyway that's it for me this time. In my next report I'll be focusing on the upcoming players that are progressing through the ranks of the club. And that's the aim of the Obilic basketball club – to provide what is best for our younger generation and to prosper in their endeavours, whether it is on the court or off the court.

I am Alex Glumac and you've been reading the Glumac Report.

Until next time Goodbye for now.