



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET MAY 4, 2024

AFL 2024 ROUND 8 MELBOURNE V GEELONG

100 YEARS AGO

On Saturday, August 2, Melbourne met Geelong for the second time in the 1924 season. The Round 15 match was played at the MCG in front of the small crowd of 7,382. Going into the match, Melbourne were in ninth (bottom) place on the ladder, having recorded only three wins for the season. Geelong were in fourth position with six wins. Earlier in the season, in Round 6, Geelong 9.19 (73) had defeated Melbourne 9.9 (63) in front of 12,000 spectators at the Corio Oval. According to the *Argus*, Melbourne were missing a number of players due to injury and they were not expected to 'extend' Geelong. There was a gusty wind blowing down the ground during the match and, after failing to make good use of it early in the first quarter, Geelong kicked four goals straight toward the end of the quarter to lead by 32 points at the first change. Despite holding Geelong goal-less in the second quarter, Melbourne only added one goal themselves and still trailed by 23 points at the main break. Geelong extended this margin to 35 points at three-quarter time, adding three goals to one. Melbourne's goal was the only one scored against the wind during the match. Having led comfortably for the whole day, Geelong probably didn't expect that they would have to fight hard for victory in the final term. Nevertheless, Melbourne had much the better of the last quarter and at one stage it seemed that they might win the game. The *Argus* reported:

As the umpire bounced the ball for the final term there were no fewer than 16 players within a radius of about ten yards of the centre, the wing men actually mingling with the followers. Cleverly dodging two Geelong backs, Tulloh worked into position and snapped Melbourne's third goal. The reds were fighting fiercely, and when Haines, tearing along the boundary, found Simmonds a few yards in front with a low pass, their fourth goal was posted, with only half the quarter gone. Chadwick and Shelton were playing finely in the ruck. Starting a brilliant burst with clever play by Taylor, carried on by Corbett and Elliman, Tulloh again scored for the home team, who were only 16 points behind. Geelong strengthened their defences, put an extra man in the ruck, and continually forced the ball to the railway wing. These tactics were effective, though they were twice penalised for kicking out. It was a great finish, with both teams working at high pressure. When five more minutes remained for play, Melbourne had shot their bolt. From then on Geelong had the best of it, and won with the scores –

GEELONG, 8 goals, 8 behinds (56 points) MELBOURNE, 5 goals, 9 behinds (39 points)

The *Argus* went on to name Geelong rover (Arthur) Pink as the 'bright particular star of the game'. It added that (Bill) Hudd and (Wallace) Sharland had been prominent in the ruck for Geelong in the first half and that (Edward 'Carji') Greeves had 'played admirably' in the centre, where he had an interesting duel with Melbourne's (Dick) Taylor. (Jack) Collins played a good game on the wing for Melbourne, while Geelong veteran (Billy) McCarter had shown fine form on the back line, where he helped keep Melbourne at bay in the final term. (George) Todd, (Dave) Ferguson and (Stan) Thomas had been other good defenders for Geelong; and Jack Paterson was the best of the forwards. (Eric) Fleming, (Lloyd) Hagger, (Charlie) Pane and (Jim) Mathieson were 'the pick of the others' for the visitors. (Bert) Chadwick had been consistent as usual in the ruck, or on the backline, for Melbourne. (Ted) Thomas was a 'brilliant defender' for the home team in the first half with (Jim) Abernethy, (Bob) Corbett and (Harry) Coy being others who were 'prominent in repelling attacks'. (Percy) Tulloh was the best for Melbourne up forward. Other good Melbourne players were: (Bill) Shelton, (George) Haines, (Derek) Mollison, (Bobby) Ewer and (Tom) Elliott. The goalkickers were: Geelong – Nick Brushfield (2), Eric Fleming (2), Lloyd Hagger (1), Syd Hall (1), Billy McCarter (1) and Arthur Pink (1); Melbourne – Percy Tulloh (2), Dave Elliman (1), George Haines (1) and George Simmonds (1). Melbourne defeated the top-placed Essendon in their last game of the season to move into eighth position on the ladder, ahead of St Kilda on percentage, while Geelong missed out on the finals, finishing the season with losses to Carlton and South Melbourne (by a point). Both teams soon had much greater success with Geelong winning their first VFL premiership in 1925 and Melbourne their second in 1926.

DID YOU KNOW?

The most recent meeting between Melbourne and Geelong at the MCG was in Round 4, 2021, when the Demons 12.13 (85) defeated the Cats 9.6 (60) before 33,728 spectators. The umpires' Brownlow Medal votes from the game were all awarded to Melbourne players, Christian Petracca (3), Jack Viney (2) and Max Gawn (1).

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 8 ON THE MCG

The highest score in Round 8 at the MCG is 25.17 (167) by Richmond against Footscray 17.15 (117) in 1981. The overall Round 8 record is 33.21 (219) by the Brisbane Bears in beating Sydney 8.9 (57) at the Gabba in 1993. The highest score in a quarter for Round 8 on the MCG is 10.5 (65) by Fitzroy against Richmond in the third quarter in 1992. The overall record is 12.5 (77) by North Melbourne in the third quarter against Footscray at Arden Street in 1983. The most goals by an individual in Round 8 at the MCG is 10. This feat is shared by Melbourne's Fred Fanning against St Kilda in 1947, Jeff Hogg for Richmond against Collingwood in 1991 and Richmond's Matthew Richardson against the Bulldogs in 2004. The overall Round 8 record is 14 by Gary Ablett for Geelong against Sydney at the SCG in 1994. The highest Round 8 attendances have been at the MCG. Top was 85,673 in 1980 when Richmond defeated Carlton 19.24 (138) to 12.13 (85). In 1992, 83,262 fans saw Carlton 16.9 (105) defeat Collingwood 9.18 (72) and 81,550 saw Melbourne 11.16 (82) beat Geelong 4.11 (35) in 1963.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V GEELONG

Melbourne v Geelong by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Geelong	Drawn
Brunswick St.	0	1	0
Corio Oval	8	30	1
Docklands	0	1	0
East Melbourne	1	0	0
Kardinia Park	19	42	1
MCG	53	54	0
Olympic Park	0	1	0
Perth Stadium	1	0	0
Princes Park	0	1	0
Punt Road	3	0	0
SCG	0	1	0
Waverley	3	3	0
	85	132	2

Last Time They Met – Round 15, 2023, Kardinia Park

	Geelong	Melbourne
Quarter time	3.4	2.1
Half time	4.7	4.8
Three-quarter time	5.10	6.11
Full time	11.12 (78)	8.15 (63)

Highest Score

Melbourne	26.18 (174)	Rd 1	1994	MCG
Geelong	37.11 (233)	Rd 19	2011	KP

Lowest Score

Melbourne	0.10 (10)	Rd 9	1897	Corio
Geelong	1.9 (15)	Rd 9	1897	Corio

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	83 points	PF 1	2021	Perth Stad.
Geelong	186 points	Rd 19	2011	KP

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

11	Fred Fanning	Melb	Rd 4	1944	KP
11	Gary Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 15	1993	MCG
10	Harry Harker	Melb	Rd 18	1921	MCG
10	George Moloney	Geel	Rd 15	1932	Corio
10	Gary Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 16	1994	KP

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>

JACKO – PLAYED FOR BOTH

Mark "Jacko" Jackson was a colourful and enigmatic character who often clashed with opposition players, teammates and officials during his VFL career. Jackson first came to prominence as a century goalkicker for the Richmond seconds but the presence of Michael Roach and Brian Taylor at the Tigers meant that his only "senior" appearance with the Tigers was in a night series game. Jackson was then recruited by Melbourne, where he played 41 games and kicked 152 goals in 1981 and 1982. Melbourne coach Ron Barassi then decided that Jackson was no longer needed by the Demons and he moved to St Kilda in 1983, where he played ten games and kicked 41 goals. Before the season was over, however, he was told by St Kilda that his services were no longer required and he spent the remainder of the year with the Melbourne Harlequins rugby union team. Jackson returned to the VFL with Geelong in 1984 and played 19 games for the Cats that season, kicking 74 goals. He was in the senior team for most of the early part of the 1985 season but was suspended for eight matches following Geelong's spiteful Round 12 clash with Hawthorn - the same game in which Leigh Matthews struck Neville Bruns behind play. Jackson played one further game for the Cats in 1985, and then the first two games in 1986, but his VFL career ended after his omission from the Geelong side for Round 3. In his 82 VFL games, Jackson kicked 308 goals, being leading goalkicker at Melbourne in 1981, at St Kilda in 1983 and at Geelong in 1984.

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library Volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, Gaye Fitzpatrick, and Edward Cohen, with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.