MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 Round 18
Melbourne v Brisbane Lions

Library Fact Sheet
July 14, 2023

MELBOURNE'S 1900 PREMIERSHIP

Melbourne won their first VFL premiership in 1900 but the fact that they were able to take the flag after finishing sixth on the ladder at the end of the home and away rounds led to a change in the way the VFL decided the premiership in the seasons that followed. After the inaugural VFL premiership in 1897, won by Essendon, was decided by a series of round robin matches between the top four teams, the VFL introduced three 'sectional' rounds in 1898. There were 14 home and away rounds, as there had been the previous year, but after these had been completed, the eight teams (Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Geelong, Melbourne, St Kilda and South Melbourne) were divided into two sections of four – Section A consisting of the teams that had finished first, third, fifth and seventh on the ladder and Section B those that had finished second, fourth, sixth and eighth. The winners of the two sections then played off for the premiership, except that if the team which finished top of the ladder did not win Section A, they had the right to challenge the winner of the sectional playoff match to a grand final.

In 1898 Fitzroy, which had finished third on the ladder, won the premiership by defeating top-placed Essendon in the grand final. Fitzroy had defeated Essendon in the third of the sectional rounds to finish top of Section A and they defeated the Section B winner, Collingwood, in the sectional playoff. In the grand final Fitzroy defeated Essendon by 15 points. The winners of the two sections in 1899 were Fitzroy, which had finished top of the ladder, and South Melbourne, which had finished sixth but had won all three of their sectional games, defeating Geelong (second on the ladder), St Kilda (eighth) and Essendon (fourth). In the sectional playoff Fitzroy defeated South Melbourne by a point to claim the premiership.

Like South the year before, Melbourne finished the 1900 home and away rounds in sixth place, their record of six wins and eight losses being only slightly better than South's five wins and nine losses in 1899. Melbourne then defeated Geelong (second on the ladder) by 17 points in the first of the sectional rounds and St Kilda (eighth) by 71 points in the second. In the final sectional round they lost to Collingwood by six points. Although both Collingwood and Geelong matched Melbourne's two sectional wins (Geelong having defeated Collingwood and all three teams having beaten St Kilda), Melbourne finished top of Section B because of their superior percentage. Essendon, which had finished third on the ladder, won Section A by defeating Carlton (seventh), Fitzroy (first) and South Melbourne (fifth). In the sectional playoff Melbourne defeated Essendon by two points at the Lake Oval. The following week they defeated Fitzroy by four points in the grand final at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground.

SHAUN SMITH'S 1995 CHANNEL 7 SPORTSWORLD MARK OF THE YEAR

In Round 22, 1995, against the Brisbane Bears at the Gabba, Melbourne's Shaun Smith took one of the most spectacular goal square marks in history by riding on the shoulders of his captain Garry Lyon (right). It may be viewed on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB_nYmwr_sg

WHO AM I?

I played over 250 games in the TANFL and TFL with Hobart, Sandy Bay and Devonport. Prior to taking up coaching positions with AFL clubs, I was an assistant coach at North Hobart, the senior coach at Sandy Bay and the inaugural coach of the Tassie Mariners.

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

This Round in History – Round 18 on the MCG

The highest score at the MCG this Round is 25.19 (169) by Sydney against Melbourne 7.11 (53) in 1997. The overall Round 18 highest score is 30.21 (201) by Carlton against Footscray 10.12 (72) at Princes Park in 1982. The most goals by an individual is 10 by Harold Harker of Melbourne against Geelong in 1921. Melbourne kicked 16.19 (115) and won by 44 points. The overall Round 18 goalkicking record is 13 by John Coleman of Essendon against Hawthorn at Windy Hill in 1952. Essendon kicked 20.12 (132) and won by 55 points. The highest score in a quarter is 10.5 (65) by Sydney in the first quarter against Melbourne in 1997. The overall Round 18 highest score in a quarter is 11.6 (72) which has been scored twice. Carlton was the first to do so, in the second quarter against St. Kilda at Junction Oval in 1932. Carlton finished with 20.21 (141) to win by 87 points. Richmond equalled the record in the first quarter against Footscray at Waverley Park in 1980 when they booted 23.18 (156) to win by 115 points. The highest Round 18 attendance at the MCG was recorded at a night game on July 30, 1993, when 87,573 saw Essendon defeat Collingwood by 68 points.

Statistics for Melbourne v Brisbane Bears/Lions

Melbourne v Brisbane Bears/Lions by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Brisbane	Drawn
Carrara	2	3	0
Docklands	1	1	0
Gabba	8	15	0
MCG	15	4	0
Waverley Park	1	0	0
Marrara	0	1	0
Showgrounds	1	0	0
Adelaide Oval	1	0	0
	29	24	0

Highest Score

Melbourne	22.21 (153)	Rd 18	1987	MCG
Bris. Lions	25.16 (166)	Rd 14	2005	Gabba

Lowest Score

Melbourne	6.10 (46)	Rd 12	1996	Gabba
Bris. Bears	4.6 (30)	Rd 5	1994	MCG

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	95 points	Rd 18	1998	MCG
Bris. Lions	85 points	Rd 12	1997	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 2, 2023, Gabba

	Brisbane	Melbourne
Quarter time	6.2	2.1
Half time	8.4	5.2
Three-quarter time	13.5	7.3
Full time	14.9 (93)	13.4 (82)

WHO AM I? ANSWER: Chris Fagan.

Statistics for Melbourne v Fitzroy (1897-1996)

Melbourne v Fitzroy by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Fitzroy	Drawn
Brunswick Street	23	38	1
East Melbourne	1	0	0
Junction Oval	5	5	0
MCG	45	30	2
North Hobart	0	1	0
Princes Park	4	5	0
Punt Road	2	4	0
Victoria Park	0	1	0
Waverley Park	5	4	0
Western Oval	3	0	0
	88	88	3

Highest Score

Melbourne	27.18 (180)	Rd 2	1991	PP
Fitzroy	36.22 (238)	Rd 17	1979	Wav

Lowest Score

Melbourne	0.2 (2)	Rd 16	1899	Bruns
Fitzroy	2.11 (23)	Rd 14	1901	MCG

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	131 points	Rd 2	1991	PP
Fitzroy	190 points	Rd 17	1979	Wav

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	B. Merrick	Fitz	Rd 16	1919	Bruns
11	R. Osborne	Fitz	Rd 18	1989	PP