



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 22 COLLINGWOOD V GEELONG

LIBRARY FACT SHEET AUGUST 11, 2023

THE GRAND FINALS

Collingwood and Geelong have met in six grand finals, Geelong winning four of those. The clubs first played each other in a grand final in **1925**, Geelong having lost only two games on their way to finishing on top after the home and away rounds. Collingwood had made the finals on percentage. Geelong then qualified for their first VFL grand final with Collingwood as their opponent. Geelong led at every change in the premiership match and went into the final quarter with a 25-point lead. Although Collingwood then kicked 3.3 to 0.6, Geelong took the flag by 10 points, their captain-coach Cliff Rankin being the match winner with five goals.

Collingwood was looking to win its fourth premiership on end in **1930**, and finished the home and away season on top of the ladder. Carlton took second spot, with Richmond third and Geelong fourth. However, Geelong had won eight of their last ten matches and continued that form by beating Carlton in one semi final. Collingwood scraped home by three points against Richmond in the other semi final. The winners then played, Geelong leading all day to beat the premiership favourites by 26 points. Under the system in place at the time, the minor premier could then challenge for the flag, and in that match Geelong appeared to be heading for another upset, leading by 21 points at half time. Collingwood then rediscovered their best form, scoring 11 goals to Geelong's three in the second half to make it four flags in a row, the great Gordon Coventry kicking seven goals.

Contemporary commentators raved about the **1937** grand final, describing it as the best ever played. Geelong finished in top spot that season, followed by Melbourne, Collingwood and Richmond. Collingwood then beat Richmond easily in the first week of the finals and Geelong defeated Melbourne by 12 points. The Magpies then gave Melbourne a 55-point hiding in the preliminary final to qualify to play for their third premiership in a row. The grand final, played in front of 88,540 spectators, was tight for three quarters, but Geelong kicked six goals to one in the final term to finish on 18.14 (122) to Collingwood's 12.18 (90). Jack Evans kicked six goals for Geelong and Ron Todd bagged four for the Magpies.

Geelong made it two flags in a row in **1952**, after having lost just two home and away matches to take top position on the ladder. Collingwood, Fitzroy and Carlton made up the top four. Geelong then beat the Magpies by 54 points in a semi final and then Collingwood bounced back to beat Fitzroy in the preliminary final. Geelong led throughout in the grand final, kicking eight second half goals to Collingwood's two to win by 46 points. Geelong's George Goninon kicked five goals.

Geelong began their quest for three in a row in **1953** with 13 wins on end, and then topped the ladder with Collingwood, Footscray and Essendon making up the final four. Collingwood then surprisingly beat Geelong by 30 points in a semi final, but Geelong then won the preliminary final to qualify for a rematch. Amazingly Geelong's star full forward George Goninon was left out of their grand final side for a narrow minded non-football reason, leaving the team with a makeshift ineffective replacement. Collingwood led at every change in the premiership decider and won the match by kicking 11.11 (77) to Geelong's 8.17 (65). Keith Batchelor kicked four goals for the Magpies.

Collingwood were attempting to go back-to-back in **2011** and Geelong were looking to make it three flags in five years. The Magpies made the grand final by beating Hawthorn by three points in a preliminary final and the Cats beat West Coast by 48 points in the other preliminary. The first half of the grand final was tight, the Magpies leading by three points at the main break, but after three quarters Geelong held a seven point lead. They then kicked 5.4 to Collingwood's 0.3 in the final term to win the match by 38 points. With 26 disposals and three goals, Jimmy Bartel won the Norm Smith Medal.

This Round in History – Round 22 on the MCG

The highest Round 22 score at the MCG is 25.20 (170) by Hawthorn against Richmond 13.8 (86) in 1992. The overall Round 22 highest score is 32.16 (208) by Essendon against Footscray 9.8 (62) at the Western Oval in 1982. The highest score in a quarter is 10.4 (64) by North Melbourne in the second quarter against Fitzroy in 1991 (Fitzroy won by a point) and by Richmond against Fitzroy in the last quarter in 1988 (Richmond won by 103 points). The overall Round 22 record is 13.4 (82) by Essendon against Footscray in the third quarter at the Western Oval in 1982. The biggest bag of goals is 12 by Jason Dunstall for Hawthorn against Richmond in 1992 (see above for match scores). This is also the overall Round 22 goalkicking record. The largest Round 22 attendance is 87,984 when Essendon played Carlton at the MCG in 1995.

Statistics for Collingwood v Geelong

Collingwood v Geelong by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Geelong	Drawn
Corio Oval	22	21	1
Docklands	2	2	0
East Melb.	1	1	0
Gabba	0	1	0
Kardinia Park	22	19	0
MCG	24	30	0
Perth Stadium	1	0	0
Victoria Park	57	25	0
Waverley	6	5	0
	135	104	1

Highest Score

Collingwood	28.16 (184)	Rd 9	1972	VP
Geelong	23.18 (156)	Rd 13	1940	Corio

Lowest Score

Collingwood	1.4 (10)	Rd 10	1897	Corio
Geelong	3.2 (20)	Rd 13	1902	VP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	102 points	Rd 8	2006	MCG
Geelong	96 points	Rd 24	2011	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 1, 2023, MCG

	Collingwood	Geelong
Quarter time	5.3	6.0
Half time	9.6	12.1
Three-quarter time	14.9	16.3
Full time	19.11 (125)	16.7 (103)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 9	1972	VP
11	G. Goninon	Geel	SF 2	1951	MCG
11	R. Todd	Coll	PF	1938	MCG

DID YOU KNOW?

- These clubs have played each other 240 times, Collingwood winning 135 of those games, Geelong 104 and one match was drawn. They have met in 26 finals, Geelong winning 14 of those.
- The Geelong club was founded in 1859 and Collingwood in 1892. Both clubs were founding members of the VFL in 1897.
- Geelong's Edward "Carji" Greeves won the first Brownlow Medal in 1924. The first Collingwood winner was Syd Coventry in 1927.
- Collingwood's top four all-time goalkickers are Gordon Coventry (1299), Peter McKenna (838), Dick Lee (707) and Peter Daicos (549). Geelong's are Gary Ablett Snr (1021), Doug Wade (834), Tom Hawkins (779) and Steve Johnson (452). Gordon Coventry topped Collingwood's goalkickers 16 times. Doug Wade and Tom Hawkins topped Geelong's 11 times.
- Peter McKenna kicked 10 or more goals in a match 13 times. Gary Ablett Snr performed the feat 12 times.
- Collingwood's finals goalkicking record is held by Ron Todd who kicked 11 goals in the 1938 preliminary final against Geelong, and again in the 1939 preliminary final against St Kilda. George Goninon holds the Geelong record, kicking 11 goals in the 1951 second semi final against Collingwood.

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>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick, with MCC deputy librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.