



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

## AFL 2023 ROUND 24 ESSENDON V COLLINGWOOD

## LIBRARY FACT SHEET AUGUST 25, 2023

### 1911 GRAND FINAL

Collingwood and Essendon, both foundation members of the Victorian Football League in 1897, faced each other for the third time in a grand final in 1911. Previously Essendon had won in 1901 and Collingwood in 1902. Since 1911, they have only met each other on one further occasion in a grand final – that being in 1990 when the Magpies won the flag for the first time since 1958. On September 23, 1911, the two sides met in front of 43,905 spectators at the MCG. Essendon, which had finished on top of the ladder after the home and away games with 15 wins, two losses and a draw, had defeated the third placed Carlton by 21 points in a semi final the week before. Collingwood, which had finished fourth with 12 wins and six losses, had defeated the second placed South Melbourne by 30 points in the other semi final on September 9.

On a rainy day Essendon, coached by Jack Worrall, who had previously coached Carlton to three consecutive premierships in 1906, 1907 and 1908, started as firm favourites, having defeated Collingwood twice during the season. With Dave Smith, Billy Griffith and Bill Busbridge starring, Essendon held a handy 16 point lead at half time. The Essendon side was ten minutes late returning from the break, however, allegedly because they needed longer stops to be nailed into their boots! Upset by this affront the Collingwood team attacked strongly in the third quarter and had narrowed the margin to just three points at the final change. Collingwood had chances to take the lead in the final term but they were not helped by their rover Tom Baxter twice kicking into the man on the mark, and missing three other relatively easy shots at goal. In the end Essendon hung on to win a low-scoring, but nevertheless enthralling, encounter by six points. The final scores were Essendon 5.11 (41) to Collingwood 4.11 (35). Tom Baxter, who had been hailed as a hero after Collingwood's 1910 grand final win over Carlton, became the 'villain' in 1911. He was a professional boxer and an associate of John Wren, who was known to have a bet, so suspicion remains to this day that he 'threw' the 1911 grand final. Baxter was regarded as one of the most skilful forwards of the time, so his making five fairly elementary errors at a vital stage of the game raised the ire of many Collingwood fans. The Collingwood Committee held an inquiry into his performance but cleared him of all allegations. Nevertheless, he never played for Collingwood again, being cleared to St Kilda at his own request.

### SYD COVENTRY – COLLINGWOOD'S FIRST BROWNLOW MEDALLIST

Syd Coventry became Collingwood's first winner of the Brownlow Medal in 1927 when he received seven best on ground votes (only one player received votes in each game at this time) to be one vote ahead of Carlton's Alex Duncan and Dick Taylor of Melbourne. Syd had joined Collingwood in 1922 two years after his younger brother Gordon. Like Gordon, he had played for the local side in Diamond Creek but he had signed with St Kilda while working as a miner in Tasmania. Gordon encouraged Syd to play with Collingwood when he returned to Victoria but he was required to sit out the whole of the 1921 season before he was permitted to play with the Magpies. Syd was shorter than his brother, but his more vigorous style of play was ideally suited to ruck work, which he handled with aplomb despite being only 182cm (six foot) tall. Syd played 18 games in his debut season, including the Magpies' 1922 grand final loss to Fitzroy, a game in which he kicked two goals. When not rucking, Syd would move to defence and mark virtually any loose ball that came his way. He quickly showed leadership qualities that eventually saw him made Collingwood captain in 1927. He led the Magpies through to 1934, including in each of their four consecutive premiership wins from 1927 to 1930. In addition to his 1927 Brownlow win, Syd won Collingwood's best and fairest award that year and again in 1932. He was a regular for Victoria throughout his playing career, making 27 interstate appearances in total. Renowned for his ability to lift his play when it was really needed, Syd played a total of 227 games for the Magpies from 1922 to 1934 and kicked 62 goals. He left Collingwood with the blessing of the committee after the 1934 season to coach Footscray, although it was on the proviso that he did not continue as a player. He coached Footscray from 1935 to 1937 but he soon returned to Victoria Park in an administrative capacity. He was club Vice-President from 1939 to 1949 and President from 1950 to 1962. From 1963 to 1976 he was club Patron. He was named Captain of Collingwood's Team of the Century. Syd died in 1976.

## This Round in History – Round 24 on the MCG

There have only been six matches played on Round 24 at the MCG. These were played in 1991, 1992, 1994 and 2011. The highest score is shared by Hawthorn who kicked 22.17 (149) against Melbourne 20.11 (130) in 1992, and Geelong who also booted 22.17 (149) against Collingwood 8.5 (53) in 2011. The 96-point margin of the 2011 match is also the largest for this round. The overall Round 24 highest score is 28.12 (180) by Adelaide against North Melbourne 16.11 (107) at Football Park in 1991. The biggest bag of goals at the MCG in Round 24 is eight by David Cloke for Richmond against Carlton in 1991. This was the first Round 24 match at the ground and Cloke's last game of his 333-game career. The overall Round 24 goalkicking record is 11 by St Kilda's Tony Lockett against Sydney at Moorabbin in 1991. The biggest Round 24 attendance at the MCG is 85,705 for the 2011 Collingwood v Geelong match. This is also the league record for this round.

## Statistics for Essendon v Collingwood

### Essendon v Collingwood by venue

	Won by Essendon	Won by Collingwood	Drawn
East Melb	7	16	0
Lake Oval	1	0	0
MCG	38	38	2
Victoria Park	23	53	0
Waverley	5	4	0
Windy Hill	32	24	2
	106	135	4

### Highest Score

Essendon	28.6 (174)	PF	1984	Wav
Collingwood	30.20 (200)	Rd 14	1971	VP

### Lowest Score

Essendon	3.2 (20)	Rd 7	1898	VP
Collingwood	2.4 (16)	Rd 4	1900	EMCG
Collingwood	2.4 (16)	GF	1901	AP

### Greatest Winning Margin

Essendon	133 points	PF	1984	Wav
Collingwood	147 points	Rd 14	1971	VP

### Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

15	Gordon Coventry	Coll	Rd 11	1933	VP
13	Peter McKenna	Coll	Rd 11	1972	VP
12	Peter McKenna	Coll	Rd 20	1970	VP
12	Peter McKenna	Coll	Rd 14	1971	VP
10	John Coleman	Ess	Rd 11	1950	WH
10	Ted Fordham	Ess	Rd 14	1966	VP

### Last Time They Met – Round 6, 2023, MCG

	Collingwood	Essendon
Quarter time	1.4	3.2
Half time	5.7	5.5
Three-quarter time	6.10	11.8
Full time	13.12 (90)	11.11 (77)

## PLAYED FOR BOTH – DES TUDDENHAM

According to *The Encyclopedia of AFL Footballers* (2005 edition), Des Tuddenham was: "One of the toughest competitors ever to pull on a pair of boots." Originally recruited from Ballarat YCW, the red-headed Tuddenham made his VFL debut in Round 5, 1962, against Geelong at Kardinia Park. He quickly made a name for himself at the Magpies "as a tear-through half-forward flanker with an unquenchable desire for victory". He won Collingwood's best and fairest award in 1963 and was club captain from 1966 to 1969. He was stood down from the captaincy in 1970 after he and his vice-captain, Len Thompson, were involved in a pay dispute and he moved to Essendon as captain-coach in 1972. After disappointing seasons in 1970 and 1971, Tuddenham helped lift the Bombers into the finals in 1972 and 1973 but they had losing records in both 1974 and 1975 (10 wins and 12 losses in both seasons) and he returned to Collingwood as captain in 1976. He played only two games in 1977 after being replaced as captain by Max Richardson.

Overall, Tuddenham played 182 games for Collingwood (1962-1971 and 1976-1977), kicking 251 goals, and 69 games for Essendon (66 goals). His greatest football disappointment was captaining the Magpies to a one-point grand final loss to St Kilda in 1966. He also played in losing grand final sides in 1964 and 1970. In the first round of the 1971 season he kicked nine goals and later that season was named Victorian captain, despite not being captain of his own club. He represented Victoria five times. He was appointed non-playing coach of South Melbourne in 1978 but was replaced after one season. He was selected in Collingwood's Team of the Century as a ruck rover and is a member of the Australian Football Hall of Fame.

## 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.