



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET JUNE 22, 2024

AFL 2024 ROUND 15 MELBOURNE V NORTH MELBOURNE

A CRUCIAL GAME IN MELBOURNE'S HISTORY

On July 24, 1965, Melbourne met North Melbourne at Coburg City Oval for their Round 13 match. A crowd of 8,312 saw one of only nine matches played at this venue. North played at Coburg due to a disagreement with the Melbourne City Council over the use of the Arden Street Oval. The Friday night sacking of Melbourne's six-time premiership coach, Norm Smith, overshadowed this game and indeed every other football story for the season. A writ by umpire, Don Blew, against Norm Smith was the catalyst as the Demons' committee refused to support him. Frank "Checker" Hughes was installed as the coach. Hughes, a former Tiger premiership player in 1920 and 1921, had also coached the Tigers to a flag in 1932 and the Demons to four flags from 1939 to 1941 and 1948. Sitting with "Checker" on the bench was a newcomer, Stan Alves, who had made his debut earlier that year. The Kangaroo coach was the colourful figure Alan Killigrew. Melbourne played raggedly and was soundly defeated. Michael Dowdle roved superbly for North, ably assisted by rucks Bob Pascoe and Noel Teasdale. Frank Goode capped off an excellent display at full-forward with six goals. Brian Dixon was the best of the Demons' players, while rovers John Townsend and Ken Emselle battled strongly. Melbourne was led by Hassa Mann and North by Noel Teasdale. North Melbourne 11.15 (81) defeated Melbourne 9.6 (60). Norm Smith was reinstated as Melbourne coach during the week that followed his sacking. The Demons finished seventh on the ladder with ten wins and eight losses.

MELBOURNE'S NEW BARRACKER

The Ageon June 14, 1933, carried this story about a vocal supporter:

"A talking cockatoo, able to screech, 'Come on Melbourne!' in real Australian barracking style, made its appearance at the Melbourne ground yesterday afternoon, and immediately attracted everyone at training. Its owner, who has followed Melbourne for years, placed the new barracker for the club on a pole where, the club colors flutter from the barracking strong post each time Melbourne plays at home, and the cockatoo soon let everyone know that it was there. It was being taught to yell a number of phrases yesterday, and if a few of these are repeated next Saturday when, Melbourne play North Melbourne the bird should create great amusement at the strong post. "We'll certainly have any amount of vigorous vocal support from now onwards" said a leading player last night."

THE FIRST GAME BETWEEN THE CLUBS

After North Melbourne's entry as one of three new teams into the Victorian Football League in 1925, the Shinboners first met the Fuchsias in Round 5 at the MCG. Melbourne, led by captain-coach Bert Chadwick, was well served by forward Harry Davie, who booted five goals, while North were captain-coached by Wells Eicke, and their leading goal kicker was Jack Lynch with four goals. Melbourne 12.13 (85) defeated North Melbourne 10.5 (65) in front of a crowd of 11,954. In their first season North finished tenth with five wins and 12 losses. Melbourne finished third with 12 wins, four losses and one draw.

THE FIRST PLAYER TO REPRESENT BOTH THE FUCSCHIAS AND THE SHINBONERS

Gerry Donnelly played twelve games and kicked four goals for the Fuchsias in 1925. He was a wingman who in his only season with Melbourne, gained selection in a Victorian interstate team. Towards the end of the year, he had his playing permit cancelled after the League determined he was residentially bound to North Melbourne. As a result he crossed to the Shinboners in 1926 and he was appointed captain. Bizarrely he also became the team's coach when Wells Eicke stepped down. Donnelly did not have a win in his 14 games as North's coach. However, in the Round 13 match against a fellow-newcomer, Hawthorn, at Glenferrie Oval, the teams drew. The result was controversial as Hawthorn was leading by one point when the bell sounded, but Donnelly, who was running with the ball at the time kicked a behind to level the score. As the umpire had not heard the bell, the score stood. Donnelly played fourteen games for North in 1926 and 1930 and kicked five goals. He then joined Essendon, also in 1930, for a further three games. Gerald Donnelly died in 1937 at the very young age of 34.

OVER TO YOU

1. Which North Melbourne players have the nicknames: "Tinkletoes", "The Gasometer", "Crazy Horse", "Snake", "Slammin' Sam" and "The King/Duck"?
2. Which Melbourne players have the nicknames: "Tangles", "Doc", "Big Bob", "Pop", "Tarzan" and "Tassie"?
3. Name the North Melbourne premiership players from 1975 and 1977 who represented both North Melbourne and Melbourne.
4. When did North Melbourne adopt the nickname "The Kangaroos"?

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 15 ON THE MCG

The highest Round 15 score on the MCG is 27.20 (182) by Essendon against Melbourne 8.12 (60) in 1986. The overall Round 15 record is 28.23 (191) by Hawthorn against Geelong 13.6 (84) at Princes Park in 1977. The most goals by an individual is 11 by Peter Sumich for West Coast against Essendon in 1992 and by Gary Ablett Snr for Geelong against Melbourne in 1993. The overall Round 15 record is 12 which has been recorded by three players – Bob Pratt for South Melbourne against Footscray at the Lakeside Oval in 1934, Peter Hudson for Hawthorn against St Kilda at Glenferrie Oval in 1971 and Simon Beasley for Footscray against Melbourne at the Western Oval in 1985. The highest score in a quarter is 10.5 (65) by Richmond in the last quarter against Hawthorn in 1997. Richmond kicked 22.13 (145) to win by 76 points. The overall Round 15 record for the highest score in a quarter is 12.6 (78) by Geelong against Brisbane Bears at Carrara in 1989. Geelong kicked 22.19 (151) to win by 74 points after leading by only 21 points at three-quarter time. The highest Round 15 attendance is 81,099 in 1960 when Melbourne defeated Collingwood by 46 points at the MCG.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V NORTH MELBOURNE

Melbourne v North Melbourne by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by North Melb.	Drawn
Adelaide Oval	1	0	0
Arden Street	28	21	1
Bellerive Oval	2	3	0
Coburg	0	1	0
Docklands	1	8	0
Manuka Oval	1	0	0
MCG	56	37	0
Punt Road Oval	0	1	0
Waverley Park	0	6	0
	89	77	1

Highest Score

Melbourne	28.14 (182)	Rd 21	1986	MCG
Melbourne	28.14 (182)	Rd 5	1991	MCG
North Melb.	31.14 (200)	Rd 14	1990	MCG

Lowest Score

Melbourne	3.9 (27)	Rd 8	1946	AS
North Melb.	3.9 (27)	Rd 7	1927	MCG

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	122 points	Rd 7	1937	MCG
North Melb.	129 points	Rd 10	1981	Wav

Last Time They Met – Round 21, 2023, Bellerive Oval

	North Melb.	Melbourne
Quarter time	5.5	1.3
Half time	8.8	8.4
Three-quarter time	9.9	14.7
Full time	10.11 (71)	15.13 (103)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

14	J. Longmire	NM	Rd 14	1990	MCG
12	G. Margitich	Melb	Rd 17	1931	MCG
11	A. Jakovich	Melb	Rd 20	1991	MCG
11	W. Carey	NM	Rd 17	1996	MCG
10	R. Glendinning	NM	Rd 9	1979	MCG
10	K. Good	NM	Rd 20	1981	AS

VALE – FR GERARD DOWLING OAM, DE.

Born in 1932, Father Dowling died on Sunday November 26, 2023, aged 91. He was a versatile figure whose work on radio as “the family counsellor” spanned fifty years. Father Gerard reflected, “... so often these days we ring a number and we get a prepared message... and you are just desperate to get someone to talk to you as you are.” A gentle and kind caring man, he was a passionate North Melbourne supporter. In fact he was the author of the club’s history, *The North Story* in 1973, which was revised and updated in 1997. In his capacity as a Catholic priest, he officiated at countless weddings, funerals and baptisms for North Melbourne players, staff and supporters over many years. He attended North home games into his latter years. His funeral was conducted at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Melbourne and the genuine outpouring of love and respect was most evident. One eulogy read: “Fr. Gerard was a cleric to all, the saint, the sinner, the rich, the poor, he would talk to anyone. He was engaging, caring, attentive and genuinely interested in peoples’ stories.”

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

Q1 Laurie Dwyer (Twinkletoes), Mick Nolan (Gasometer), Gary Cowton (Crazy Horse), Phil Baker (Snake), Sam Kekovich (Slammin’ Sam) and Wayne Carey (The King/Duck). **Q2** Max Walker (Tangles), Brian Roet (Doc), Bob Johnson (Big Bob), Francis Vine (Pop), Eric Glass (Tarzan) and Robert Johnson (Tassie). **Q3** Brent Crosswell, Stan Alves, Steven Icke, Peter Keenan and Xavier Tanner. **Q4** 1950.

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>

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