



# MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

## JUNE 29, 2024

### AFL 2024 ROUND 16

### GEELONG V ESSENDON

#### COLEMAN'S DEBUT

John Coleman played 98 games for Essendon from 1949 to 1954, kicking a mammoth 537 goals. He was a member of the Bombers' 1949 and 1950 premierships teams, six times leading goalkicker at the club, and voted best and fairest at Essendon in 1949. He led the VFL goalkicking five times, was named in the All Australian team in 1953 and was selected at full forward in the AFL Team of the Century in 1996.

Coleman made a sensational debut for Essendon, when in their Round 1 match of the 1949 season against Hawthorn at Windy Hill, he kicked 12 goals. Coleman was recruited from the Hastings club that played in the Mornington Peninsula League. On the Monday after his VFL debut, an article headed "Hastings Lad Made A Hit With His Kick" appeared in Melbourne's *Herald* newspaper:

"Things were quiet at Hastings on Saturday, because most of the population went to Essendon, to see young John Coleman play his first League game. The Hastingsites were not many in the crowd of 13,200 (sic) that roared acclaim to the young commerce student who kicked 12 goals 2 behinds from 16 shots. But Dad and brother Albert and sister reckoned it was their town's day all right. Mother and another sister stayed at home and sat near the wireless all afternoon. They had to wait only half a minute before John scored his first goal. John had kicked 136 goals in 1947 and another 160 last year, but that was different. He was playing for Hastings then. Before that he was captain of the University High football team, but that was different too. This time he was playing for Essendon, his first really big game, and with chaps like Dickie Reynolds and Ted Lechane. Twelve goals! and afterwards, his team said: "Dead-shot will do us". You can't tell them anything about Coleman at Hastings. They could have told you plenty BEFORE Saturday; anyone living in the district could have told you that John was a champion full-forward before going to Essendon. And John's play on Saturday was no surprise to Hastings players and officials: they had seen his deadly kicking and marking and leading out. They had watched and played with him last year and the year before. And John, the 20-year-old University student, what does he have to say about it all? He says that he is wondering how he'll go against a stronger team than Hawthorn. But Hastingsites have no doubt. They KNOW."

#### THE ONLY GRAND FINAL CLASH BETWEEN THE CATS AND THE BOMBERS

Michael Lovett, a journalist and keen Geelong supporter, noted: "In ending its fourteen-year premiership drought in 1951, Geelong not only helped lift its city off its knees, it produced one of the great seasons in the club's history." The ladder for the season had Geelong in first position with 14 wins and 4 losses and Essendon in third position with 13 wins and 5 losses. On the morning of the match, the Bombers were forced to replace teenage ruckman, John Gill, who had a heavy cold. To the surprise of many, it was 36 year-old coach and former star, Dick Reynolds, who came into the line-up as 19th man, after retiring at the end of the 1950 season. Dozens of fans inside the MCG were forced to jump the fence and sit inside the boundary-line. Players from both sides regularly flew headlong into the crowd. Geelong's skipper, Fred Flanagan, won the toss and kicked to the Punt Road end. Bill Hutchison captained the Dons, the coaches were Reg Hickey (Geelong) and Dick Reynolds (Essendon). Geelong led at each break and ran out winners, with the Cats 11.15 (81) to the Bombers 10.10 (70). The crowd of 85,975 at the MCG saw George Goninon lead Geelong's goalkickers with four, while for Essendon Keith McDonald and Bob Syme each kicked two goals. The best for the Cats were: Bruce Morrison, Bernie Smith, Bill McMaster, Leo Turner, George Goninon, John Hyde and Neil "Nipper" Trezise. The Bombers were best served by: Les Gardiner, Lance Mann, Norm McDonald, Wally "Chooka" May, Bob Syme and Doug Bigelow. The controversial suspension of crack full-forward, John Coleman, on the eve of the finals, cleared the way for Geelong to win the 1951 flag.

#### OVER TO YOU.

1. Which Geelong players have the nicknames: "Tomahawk", "The Geelong Flier", "Whiskas/Buddha", "Carji" and "Polly".
2. Which Essendon players have the nicknames: "The Flying Dutchman", "Fish", "Bluey" and "Kookaburra"?
3. Which players, who played with both Essendon and Geelong, have the nicknames "Uncle", "Stan", "Groucho", "Killer" and "Bucks"?

## THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 16 ON THE MCG

The highest score in Round 16 on the MCG is 27.18 (180) by Hawthorn against Richmond 17.11 (113) in 1985. The overall Round 16 record is 34.18 (222) by Richmond against St Kilda 11.4 (70) at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1980. The most goals by an individual is 11 by Dermott Brereton for Hawthorn against Richmond in 1990. Hawthorn kicked 25.9 (159) to win by 91 points. The overall Round 16 goal-kicking record is 13 by Tony Modra for Adelaide against Richmond at Football Park (Adelaide) in 1993. Adelaide kicked 26.15 (171) to win by 139 points. The highest score in a quarter is 12.1 (73) in the first quarter by the Kangaroos against Essendon in 2001. Despite trailing by 58 points at the first change, Essendon went on to win by 12 points: 27.9 (171) to 25.9 (159). The overall Round 16 record for the highest score in a quarter is 13.3 (81) by Hawthorn against North Melbourne in the first quarter at Princes Park in 1982. Hawthorn went on to kick 32.14 (206) to win by 96 points. The highest Round 16 attendance at the MCG is 83,773 on Sunday July 19, 1998 when Essendon defeated Richmond by 19 points.

### STATISTICS FOR GEELONG V ESSENDON

#### Geelong v Essendon by venue

	Won by Geelong	Won by Essendon	Drawn
Bris. Exhib. Oval	0	1	0
Corio Oval	24	16	1
Docklands	13	5	0
East Melbourne	7	19	0
Gabba	1	0	0
Kardinia Park	24	19	0
MCG	15	15	0
Waverley Park	4	4	0
Windy Hill	15	36	4
	103	115	5

#### Highest Score

Geelong	28.13 (181)	Rd 9	1992	MCG
Essendon	26.9 (165)	Rd 21	1983	Kard

#### Lowest Score

Geelong	2.9 (21)	Rd 8	1910	E Melb
Essendon	2.3 (15)	Rd 9	1902	E Melb

#### Greatest Winning Margin

Geelong	116 points	Rd 17	1934	Corio
Essendon	97 points	Rd 2	1986	WH

#### Last Time They Met – Round 18, 2023, Kardinia Park

	Geelong	Essendon
Quarter time	7.5	0.1
Half time	9.10	3.2
Three-quarter time	14.11	4.2
Full time	18.14 (122)	7.3 (45)

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

14	Gary Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 6	1993	14
13	John Coleman	Ess	Rd 8	1952	13
12	Fred Gallagher	Ess	Rd 8	1957	12
10	Paul Salmon	Ess	Rd 6	1993	10
10	Jack Metherell	Geel	Rd 9	1936	10

## DID YOU KNOW?

Geelong was originally called The Pivotonians because of the city's location as the pivot for Victorian trade. They became the Cats in July 1923 when, after a series of losses, *Herald* cartoonist, Sam Wells, suggested Geelong adopt a black cat as their mascot to conjure some perverse luck for ailing form. Last year was the centenary of the Cats' nickname.

During their time in the VFA, from 1889 Essendon was referred to as "the Same Olds". The nickname was continued during the club's time in the Victorian Football League. The song: "The Same Olds" was sung when the team played at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground to remind supporters that, even though they were playing at East Melbourne, they were still the same old Essendon. The club was often referred to as "The Dons" for the obvious reason. In 1940 at the time of World War II, Essendon was then playing at Essendon Recreation Reserve, locally known as Windy Hill, which was close to the Essendon Aerodrome. The new nickname, "The Bombers", became popular.

## OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

**Q1** Tom Hawkins (Tomahawk), Bob Davis (The Geelong Flier), Garry Hocking (Whiskas/Buddha), Edward Greeves (Carji) and Graham Farmer (Polly).

**Q2** Paul Vander Haar (The Flying Dutchman), Paul Salmon (Fish), Ian Shelton and Bob McClure (Bluey) and Alex Epis (Kookaburra).

**Q3** "Uncle" - Paul Chapman, "Stan" - Stephen Carey, "Groucho" - George Goninon, "Killer" - Glenn Kilpatrick and "Bucks" - Andrew Rodgers.

#### FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

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

<http://tinyurl.com/mcccatalogue>

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