



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET JULY 12, 2024

AFL 2024 ROUND 18 COLLINGWOOD V GEELONG

BILL TWOMEY SNR.

In 1919 these two sides met at Geelong's Corio Oval in Round 3. The *Football Record* told us of Magpie midfielder Bill Twomey's day out – in just his tenth game with the Pies:

“More about Twomey, the Speed King Magpie. Geelong were prepared for him. Gross was detailed to mind the galloper, for Gross was the champion sprinter on [sic] one of the Geelong colleges. He had given an exhibition of his speed at a sports meeting by running alone 100 yards in 11 seconds. If anybody could warm up the flier from Victoria Park, Geelong lads thought, Gross was the man. But Twomey was like a man on springs. He outclassed his opponent so conspicuously that somebody else had to take on the task of stopping the phenomenal Magpie. But two for Twomey made no difference. He ran rings around all and sundry.”

Twomey (pictured) was recruited from the VFA side Preston. He played a total of 54 games (5 goals) for Collingwood from 1918 to 1922, but his love for many sports saw him retire at the end of the 1922 season to concentrate on an athletics career. He won the Stawell and Ararat Gifts in 1924. During this time he continued to play football with Stawell, then later with South Ballarat, South Bendigo, Nhill and Ararat. In 1933 he was appointed captain-coach at Hawthorn where he played 10 games (0 goals) and retired from the game at the end of the 1934 season. He was subsequently appointed as a reserves coach at South Melbourne and later at North Melbourne. The September 18, 1920, issue of the *Football Record* wrote:



“Bill Twomey has a great crop of hair. It looked as if he had an umbrella up when he was skimming along the ground. And how did he scoot! He got along the water and mud like a man in a swift motor boat. The heaviness of the going made little difference to this remarkably fast pedestrian. I should say that Bill could deliver a message on foot a mile or two distant before you could transmit it through the telephone—judging by the way they attend to the 'phone these days.”

Three of Twomey's sons played senior VFL football with Collingwood, Bill Jnr., Mick and Pat, the three being together in the club's successful 1953 premiership side against Geelong.

WHAT'S NEW?

A 1921 edition of the *Football Record* reported:

“The League and the umpires will have a pow-wow on Monday night. It is to be hoped that as a result there will be an improvement in the umpiring Saturday after Saturday. It has been wanted for long enough. Some of the officials had been getting lax. There has been little variation in the throwing in from the boundaries, and as for the holding rule—well—nobody seems to be satisfied.”

DID YOU KNOW?

The first ever match between Collingwood and Geelong took place on July 30, 1892, at Geelong's Corio Oval. It was played before a small crowd estimated at around 1,000 spectators. The Magpies kicked two goals in the first quarter to Geelong's one, but the Pivotonians booted a further five in the second term. The Pies kicked only one more goal for the match and Geelong ultimately won by 13 goals to three. Geelong's Dave de Coite was the game's leading goalkicker with three. He played 62 games for Geelong and scored 89 goals from 1891 to 1895, and was the Pivotonians' leading goalkicker in 1893 (29 goals) and 1895 (42 goals).

OVER TO YOU

1. Geelong have had five Norm Smith Medallists. Can you name them?
2. Can you name the Geelong and Collingwood players selected in the 2023 AFL All Australian Team?
3. Geelong's Tom Hawkins and Joel Selwood were drafted in the same year. Can you name the year?

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 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. CG	1	1	0
Gabba	0	1	0
Kardinia Park	22	19	0
MCG	25	30	0
Perth Stadium	1	0	0
Victoria Park	57	25	0
Waverley Park	6	5	0
	136	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 22, 2023, MCG

	Collingwood	Geelong
Quarter time	3.4	6.2
Half time	7.8	8.3
Three-quarter time	13.11	10.5
Full time	16.13 (109)	15.11 (101)

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

GEORGE GONINON

The second semi final in 1951 saw these two sides meet at the MCG in front of 73,785 fans. Collingwood got off to a flying start kicking six goals to Geelong's two in the first quarter but then the Cats took over, kicking twenty goals to the Magpies' four and running out winners by 82 points. Geelong's full forward George Goninon kicked 11 goals three behinds for the match which was one goal more than Collingwood's total. This equalled the record then held by Harry "Soapy" Vallence in the First Semi Final in 1931 and Ron Todd in finals in 1938 and 1939.

Goninon had started with Essendon in 1948, coming from Tasmanian side Burnie. He played a total of nine games (11 goals) for the club but was overshadowed by their star full forward John Coleman, so he went off to Geelong during the 1950 season. Described in *The Encyclopedia of AFL Footballers* as: "a phenominally accurate kick for goal. . . not spectacular, but a shrewd player . . ." He headed the VFL goalkicking in 1951 with 86 goals, and headed Geelong's goalkicking from 1950 to 1953. He played a total of 78 games (278 goals) for the club from 1950 to 1955. He was sensationally omitted from the side for the 1953 Grand Final when he was accused of marital infidelity, the strict churchgoing members of the club pressuring the selectors to leave him out of the side.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

Q1 Gary Ablett snr 1989, Steve Johnson 2007, Paul Chapman 2009, Jimmy Bartel 2011 and Isaac Smith 2022.

Q2 Tom Stewart (Geelong), Darcy Moore (Collingwood), Josh Daicos (Collingwood) Nick Daicos (Collingwood).

Q3 2006.

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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