MCC Library Fact Sheet
July 13, 2024

AFL 2024 Round 18
Melbourne v Essendon

Vale Clyde Laidlaw – 1933-2024

All involved with the Melbourne Football Club were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Clyde Laidlaw, one of the Demons' much-loved figures, and a veteran of four premierships – 1955, 1956, 1959 and 1960 - in red and blue. Hailing from Portland, Clyde Laidlaw played eight games in his first season – 1954. While injury curtailed the start of his career, he was soon in full flight, and was hailed at the end of 1955 for his determination and strength at centre half-forward, with it being said that, "he seems well set to become the leading half forward at Melbourne for many years to come."

Indeed, throughout many of his 124 games and 58 goals, Laidlaw was a tower of strength, highlighted by his marking and kicking prowess. He missed the 1957 premiership triumph with a thigh injury, but was an integral part of all the victories that surrounded it. While there were numerous stars in these teams, Laidlaw was one of the constant lights, and in 1959 was recognised for his efforts with an Outstanding Service Award. It was written of him that:

Clyde Laidlaw enjoyed what was probably his best season of football...Early in the year it was obvious that this player was vastly improved in all phases of the game. His strength and safe marking, backed up by an extra yard of pace, made him outstanding in the position of centre half-forward.

His record at the MCG was phenomenal. He played 66 games at the ground for 58 wins, six losses and two draws. He was a member of the Demons' 1960 premiership team. After this season he was restricted by injury, and played just two games in 1962. At season's end, he retired, leaving behind him a legacy that will always be a treasured part of the club's story. In more recent seasons, Clyde was one of those who was delighted to welcome the 2021 premiership cup home, linking this victory to previous Demon generations and their cherished achievements. We offer our most sincere condolences to Clyde's family, friends and former teammates. Black armbands were worn in his honour when the Demons played the West Coast Eagles on Sunday, July 7.

Finals Between the Clubs

Essendon and Melbourne have played in 16 finals, with Essendon winning seven of these, Melbourne eight and one match ending in a draw. Surprisingly seven of these games have been grand finals, with Essendon victorious in 1946 and 2000 and Melbourne winners in 1941, 1948, 1957 and 1959. The 1948 grand final was a draw with Melbourne winning the replay.

Norm Smith and Dick Reynolds were involved in all these grand finals, except the 2000 match. In the 1941 grand final, Melbourne 19.13 (127) defeated Essendon 13.20 (98) with Dick Reynolds captain/coaching the Bombers and Norm Smith kicking three goals for Melbourne at full forward. In 1946, Essendon 22.18 (150) defeated Melbourne 13.9 (87). Norm Smith captained the Demons and Dick Reynolds, who kicked three goals, captained/coached the Bombers. In the 1948 drawn grand final both Smith and Reynolds featured amongst the best players. The final scores read Essendon 7.27 (69) to Melbourne 10.9 (69). The first ever replay of a VFL grand final saw Melbourne 13.11 (89) defeat Essendon 7.8 (50) with Smith again being a prominent player for the Demons. In the 1957 grand final, Melbourne 17.14 (116) defeated Essendon 7.13 (55) before a crowd of 100,324. Norm Smith coached the Demons and Dick Reynolds coached the Bombers. In 1959 Melbourne 17.13 (115) defeated Essendon 11.12 (78) before an MCG crowd of 103,506. Smith and Reynolds were again the opposing coaches.

Did You Know?

In a match against Melbourne at the MCG in Round 13, 1937, Dick Reynolds appeared in guernsey number four, which was not his usual guernsey number. There was much speculation on the day about why he had appeared in a guernsey that had a different number from the one he usually wore. The explanation was simple, however, as Reynolds had suffered a memory lapse and left his own uniform at home. Murray Exelby had earlier donned number four in one game for Essendon in 1937.

Over To You

1. Which VFL team was Norm Smith associated with as a player and coach apart from Melbourne?
2. Which VFL team did Norm Smith coach from 1969 to 1972?
3. How many times was Norm Smith Melbourne's leading goalkicker?
4. In which years did Dick Reynolds win his three Brownlow Medals?
5. Which number did Dick Reynolds usually wear at Essendon?
6. Which South Australian club did Dick Reynolds coach from 1961 to 1963?

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 Melbourne v Essendon

Melbourne v Essendon by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Essendon	Drawn
Carrara	1	0	0
Docklands	4	3	0
East Melb. CG	3	19	1
Lake Oval	1	1	0
MCG	46	67	1
Princes Park	0	1	0
Punt Road Oval	2	1	0
SCG	1	0	0
Adelaide Oval	0	1	0
Waverley Park	2	6	0
Windy Hill	26	32	0
	86	131	2

Highest Score

Melbourne	25.20 (170)	Rd 2	1937	WH
Essendon	28.16 (184)	Rd 2	2013	MCG

Lowest Score

Melbourne	0.8 (8)	Final	1897	LO
Essendon	1.8 (14)	Final	1897	LO

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	90 points	Rd 15	1927	MCG
Essendon	148 points	Rd 2	2013	MCG

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	Ted Freyer	Ess	Rd 1	1935	MCG
11	George Margitich	Melb	Rd 9	1930	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 5, 2023, Adelaide Oval

	Essendon	Melbourne
Quarter time	5.4	4.2
Half time	9.10	7.5
Three-quarter time	12.13	7.7
Full time	15.14 (104)	11.11 (77)

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

Some Goal Kicking Feats in Essendon/Melbourne Games

- Melbourne's George Margitich kicked eleven goals at the MCG in Round 9, 1930. A crowd of 28,334 saw Melbourne 17.12 (114) defeat Essendon 11.22 (88).
- Essendon's Ted Freyer kicked 12 goals 4 behinds in Round 1, 1935 at the MCG. A crowd of 15,617 witnessed Essendon 24.15 (159) defeat Melbourne 15.9 (99).
- Melbourne's Robert Walters kicked 9 goals 1 behind in Round 18, 1979. An MCG crowd of 25,367 saw Melbourne 21.8 (134) defeat Essendon 16.9 (105).
- Essendon's Paul Salmon kicked 8 goals 4 behinds in Round 15, 1986 at the MCG. A crowd of 21,560 saw Essendon 27.20 (182) defeat Melbourne 8.12 (60).
- Essendon's Matthew Lloyd kicked 8 goals 1 behind in Round 14, 1997, at the MCG in front of 44,803 fans. Essendon 18.12 (120) defeated Melbourne 8.9 (57).
- Essendon's Matthew Lloyd kicked 8 goals 1 behind in Round 18, 2008, at the MCG in front of a crowd of 46,334 when Essendon 19.10 (124) defeated Melbourne 17.6 (108).

Over To You Answers

Q1 Fitzroy. **Q2** South Melbourne. **Q3** Four (1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941). **Q4** 1934, 1937 and 1938. **Q5** Reynolds wore number 3 for almost all his VFL career. **Q6** West Torrens.