



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET AUGUST 23, 2024

AFL 2024 Round 24 MELBOURNE V COLLINGWOOD

MELBOURNE V COLLINGWOOD GRAND FINALS

1926

The 1926 grand final saw Melbourne 17.17 (119) defeat Collingwood 9.8 (62). The Melbourne Fuchsias thumped Collingwood by 57 points, thus ending a 26-year premiership drought. Bob Johnson Snr (Melbourne) kicked six goals and Harry Moyes and Stan "Bunny" Wittman (Melbourne) each kicked three goals; Collingwood's leading goalscorers were Harry Collier (3) and Gordon Coventry (2). The best players for the winners were: Jim Abernethy, Bob Johnson, Harry Moyes, Charlie Streeter, Ivor Warne-Smith and "Bunny" Wittman. For the Magpies, the best players were George Beasley, Harry Collier, Syd. Coventry, John "Jiggy" Harris, Jim Shanahan and Henry "Leo" Westcott.

1939

In 1939 the two teams met at the MCG on September 30 in front of a crowd of 78,110. The Magpies appeared in their fifth grand final in a row but left with their third successive "runners-up" placing, this time at the hands of a powerful Melbourne team that handed out a 53-point drubbing. The leading goalkickers for the Demons were Percy Beames and Alby Rodda who each registered four goals and for the Magpies Ron Todd kicked six goals. The best for the Demons were Percy Beames, Frank Roberts, Syd. Anderson, Alby Rodda, Ray Wartman and Keith "Bluey" Truscott. For the Magpies the best players were Jack Regan, Ron Todd, Jack Knight, Harry Collier, Phonse Kyne and Vin Doherty. The field umpire, Allan Coward, suffered a dislocated elbow and was replaced by Bill Blackburn in the second quarter. The final score read: Melbourne 21.22 (148) to Collingwood 14.11 (95).

1955

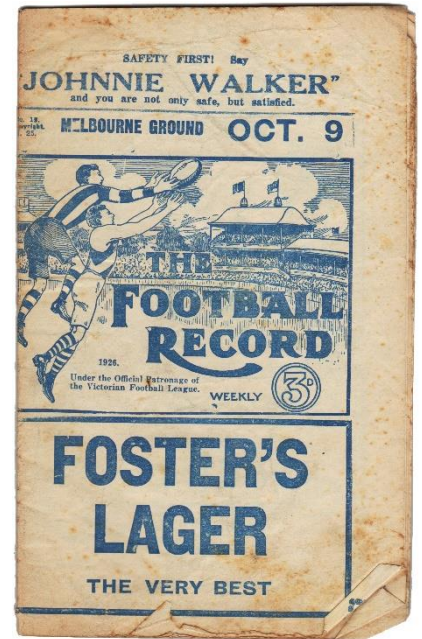
The 1955 grand final took place at the MCG on September 17 in front of a crowd 88,053; the Demons outclassed Collingwood by 28 points. The game was highlighted by the infamous Des Healey/Frank Adams clash which saw both players stretchered off and Healey forced into permanent retirement. The final scores read: Melbourne 8.16 (64) to Collingwood 5.6 (36). The best goalkickers for the Demons were Noel Clarke and Ian "Tiger" Ridley with three goals each and for the Magpies Murray Weideman kicked two goals. The best players for Melbourne were Denis Cordner, Ron Barassi, Ken Melville, Ian McLean, Noel McMahan and Peter Marquis, while the Magpies were best served by Jack Hamilton, Peter Lucas, Neil Mann, Bob Rose, Lerrel Sharp and Frank Tuck.

1956

The 1956 grand final took place at the MCG in front of a remarkable crowd of 115,902 on September 15. The match saw Melbourne 17.19 (121) defeat Collingwood 6.12 (48). Melbourne's leading goalscorers were Stuart Spencer and Athol Webb each with five goals and for Collingwood six players each registered one goal (Ken Smale, Bill Serong, Ken Turner, Bill Twomey, Bill Jones and Bob Greve). The best for the Demons were Stuart Spencer, Ron Barassi, Frank "Bluey" Adams, Denis Cordner, John Beckwith and Ken Melville while for the Magpies the best were Frank Tuck, Bill Serong, Bill Twomey, Bill Jones and Bob Greve.

1958

The turn-around occurred in the 1958 grand final, played on September 20 at the MCG in front of 97,956. Melbourne finished three games clear on top of the ladder and walloped Collingwood by 45 points in the second semi final. It seemed a formality that it would equal the Pies' four-in-a-row record of 1927-1930 but, on a wet day Magpie strongmen such as Murray Weideman and Barry "Hooker" Harrison made life uncomfortable for the Demons who went down by three goals in a boil-over. The League countered the attempt by the Sun newspaper to thwart the Football Record's exclusive hold on player numbers. The Sun had published the players' usual numbers on the morning of the game. Collingwood's best were Thorold Merrett, Barry Harrison, Ken Bennett, Graeme Fellowes, Bill Serong and Ray "Gabbo" Gabelich. Melbourne's best were John Beckwith, Don Williams, Bob Johnson, Frank Adams, Ian McLean and Geoff Tunbridge. Goalkickers for the Magpies were Murray Weideman, Ian Brewer, Brian Beers, Ken Bennett and Thorold Merrett all of whom scored two goals. For the Demons Ron Barassi and Frank Adams each kicked two goals. The final scores read: Collingwood 12.10 (82) to Melbourne 9.10 (64).



Melbourne 1926 captain Albert Chadwick's *Football Record* for the 1926 grand final. (Donated to the MCC by Gwenda Alder).

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 24 ON THE MCG

There have only been eight AFL matches played on Round 24 at the MCG. These were played in 1991 (1 game), 1992 (1 game), 1994 (2 games), 2011 (2 games) and 2023 (2 games). The highest score is 22.17 (149) by Hawthorn against Melbourne 20.11 (130) in 1992 and 22.17 (149) by Geelong against Collingwood 8.5 (53) in 2011. The biggest margin for this round at the MCG is 96 points by Geelong against Collingwood in 2011. The overall Round 24 highest score is 28.12 (180) by Adelaide against North Melbourne 16.11 (107) at Football Park in 1991. The largest winning margin on this round is Geelong's 96 points against Collingwood. 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 Geelong v Collingwood clash. This is also the League record for this round.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V COLLINGWOOD

Melbourne v Collingwood by venue

| | Won by Melbourne | Won by Collingwood | Drawn |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Albert Park | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Gabba | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| MCG | 59 | 86 | 3 |
| Punt Road | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| SCG | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Victoria Park | 19 | 56 | 2 |
| Waverley Park | 4 | 6 | 0 |
| | 85 | 154 | 5 |

Highest Score

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------|------|-----|
| Melbourne | 25.18 (168) | Rd 20 | 1982 | VP |
| Collingwood | 27.11 (173) | Rd 2 | 1996 | MCG |

Lowest Score

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------|------|-----|
| Melbourne | 1.5 (11) | Rd 10 | 1898 | VP |
| Collingwood | 2.2 (14) | GF | 1960 | MCG |

Greatest Winning Margin

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------|------|-----|
| Melbourne | 94 points | Rd 10 | 1939 | MCG |
| Collingwood | 109 points | Rd 15 | 1919 | MCG |

Last Match – Round 13, 2024, MCG

| | Collingwood | Melbourne |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Quarter time | 3.1 | 0.4 |
| Half time | 7.3 | 2.6 |
| Three-quarter time | 11.3 | 4.11 |
| Full time | 14.5 (89) | 6.15 (51) |

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------|------|-------|------|-----|
| 10 | G. Coventry | Coll | Rd 18 | 1933 | VP |
| 10 | G. Margitich | Melb | Rd 18 | 1933 | VP |
| 10 | P. McKenna | Coll | Rd 6 | 1971 | MCG |
| 10 | S. Rocca | Coll | Rd 2 | 1997 | MCG |

MELBOURNE V COLLINGWOOD GRAND FINALS (CONT.)

1960

On a freezing cold and wet day on September 24, a crowd of 97,457 braved the cold and saw the Demons 8.14 (62) defeat Collingwood 2.2 (14). Melbourne's status as one of the great teams was further enhanced with its seventh consecutive grand final appearance – and its fifth flag in that time. Melbourne won by 48 points in the wet and the hapless Magpies were the victims again, this time managing a paltry 2.2 (14), the lowest grand final score since 1927. The goalkickers for the Demons were Bob Johnson (2), Frank Adams (2), "Hassa" Mann (2) and for Collingwood John Henderson and Ray Gabelich each kicked one goal. The best for Melbourne were Laurie Mithen, John Lord, Len Mann, Bob Johnson, Geoff Tunbridge and Brian Dixon. For Collingwood the best were Keith Burns, Kevin Rose, Mick Twomey, Bill Thrupp and Ron Reeves.

1964

The 1964 grand final was played on September 19 at the MCG in front of a crowd of 102,471. Another Melbourne/Collingwood grand final and another Demons' victory. Giant Magpie, Ray Gabelich, put his team ahead late in the last quarter after a now legendary fifty-metre run. But Melbourne back-pocket player, Neil Crompton, followed his man up-field, took the ball when it spilled from a pack and slotted through his only goal of the season; this snatched a four-point victory for the Demons. The leading goalkicker for Melbourne was John Townsend with three goals and for Collingwood Ray Gabelich kicked two. The best players for the Demons were Frank Adams, Brian Dixon, Tassie Johnson, Graham Wise, Hassa Mann and Don Williams. For the Magpies the best players were Laurie Hill, Trevor Steer, Mick Bone, Ted Potter, John Henderson and Denis Dalton. The final score read: Melbourne 8.16 (64) to Collingwood 8.12 (60).

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>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, Gaye Fitzpatrick and Edward Cohen, with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.