



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET MARCH 15, 2025

AFL 2025 ROUND 1 COLLINGWOOD V PORT ADELAIDE

IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE TOP: PORT ADELAIDE (1870–2004)

Port Adelaide Football Club played its first game on May 24, 1870. Initially the players wore a blue and white guernsey and a pink cap, the black and white strip not being adopted until 1902. The club has been extraordinarily successful, winning 36 SANFL premierships. During the 1950s, one of several great eras, Fos Williams led the team to seven flags, including a record six in a row. But despite such dominance, Port Adelaide would not find it easy to break into the national competition.

In 1981, the SANFL had unsuccessfully applied to have one of its teams included in the VFL competition. Following further fruitless negotiations with the VFL over the next five years, the SANFL changed tack in 1986 by forming the Adelaide Football Club Incorporated, but their application for admission continued to fall on deaf ears. Then in July 1990 came the shock revelation that the AFL Commission had secretly completed a deal with Port Adelaide for that club to join their competition in 1991, but this controversial plan collapsed when (following pressure from the SANFL) the AFL clubs vigorously rejected it. Ironically, the failed Port Adelaide bid would prove to be the catalyst for the inclusion of the Adelaide Crows the following year, the AFL Commission, desperate to salvage a deal from the wreckage, at last agreeing to include the SANFL composite team.

After initially being informed that their bid was successful, Port Adelaide now found themselves on the outer with both the SANFL and the AFL. But this was a club used to winning, and another bid was launched in June 1992, further premierships in 1992 and 1994 enhancing their credentials if a second licence became available. Norwood and Sturt were the other leading candidates, but it seems that Port Adelaide's fame throughout Australia led to the announcement in December 1994 that the club would become the second South Australian team in the AFL. There was a further stumbling block, however, as Fitzroy continued to survive against the odds. Because the AFL did not want a 17-team competition, Port was forced to wait. The merger between Fitzroy and the Brisbane Bears, announced in 1996, resulted in Port playing their first AFL game on 29 March 1997. Captained by Gavin Wanganeen and coached by John Cahill, it was no surprise that they were matched against Collingwood at the MCG. Port won ten games that season, nine in 1998, twelve in 1999 and seven in 2000. The club made a dramatic improvement in 2001, winning 16 games and finishing second on the ladder. Top place was earned in 2002, 2003 and 2004, over those three seasons 63 home-and-away games being won and just 13 lost. But finals were a different matter, Port having lost six and won only two between 2001 and 2003.

Port played Geelong in the 2004 first qualifying final, winning by 55 points. The first preliminary final was much tighter, St Kilda falling short by just six points in Robert Harvey's 300th game. Port Adelaide had qualified for their first AFL grand final, their opponents being Brisbane, who would be attempting to equal the record of four flags on end.

Port opened well in the premiership match and led by 15 points at the first break. Not to be denied, Brisbane responded with four goals to two in the second quarter, the game being evenly balanced at half-time. In a decisive last twelve minutes of the third quarter, Port capitalized on Brisbane's inaccuracy and kicked four goals to lead by 17 points at the final change. The last quarter was all Port Adelaide's, and they bolted away to win their first AFL flag by 40 points. Norm Smith Medallist Byron Pickett (3 goals), Peter Burgoyne and Gavin Wanganeen (4 goals) were Port's best, with Mal Michael, Daniel Bradshaw (3 goals) and Tim Notting (3 goals) standing out for Brisbane.

PORT ADELAIDE	4.5	6.6	12.8	17.11 (113)
BRISBANE	2.2	6.7	9.9	10.13 (73)

Norm Smith Medal Votes:

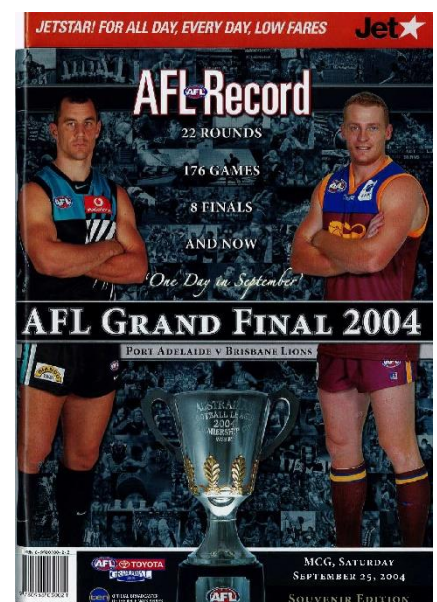
10 - Pickett (PA), 7 - Wanganeen (PA), 6 - K Cornes (PA), 5 - P Burgoyne (PA).

Port Adel Goals: Wanganeen 4, Pickett 3, Thurstans 3, Carr, Tredrea, Dew, Lade, S Burgoyne, Kingsley, Mahoney.

Brisbane Goals: Notting 3, Akermanis 3, Bradshaw 3, Keating.

The 2004 Port Adelaide premiership line-up was:

B	M Wilson,	D Wakelin	Bishop
HB	Hardwick	C Cornes	Montgomery
C	Mahoney	J Carr	K Cornes
HF	Pickett	Tredrea	P Burgoyne
F	Thurstans	Lade	Wanganeen
Foll	Brogan	James	S Burgoyne
Int	Kingsley	Cassisi	Dew
			Schofield



THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 1 AT THE MCG

The MCG has witnessed some big wins in Round 1. The biggest was Geelong's 127-point victory over Melbourne in 1996. This bettered Melbourne's 105-point win over South Melbourne in 1971. The Cats' score of 27.21 (183) in 1996 is also the best Round 1 score on the MCG. The best score in one quarter was by Essendon who kicked 11.3 (69) during the second quarter against Melbourne in 1935. Drawn games have figured prominently in Round 1 over the years. However, only two have taken place on the MCG, when Melbourne drew with Sydney 11.18 (84) apiece on March 27, 2011, and Carlton drew with Richmond 8.10 (58) apiece on March 16, 2023. The highest tally of goals kicked in Round 1 on the MCG was 12 by Essendon's Ted Freyer against Melbourne in 1935. The top attendance for a Round 1 game at the MCG is 90,151 for the Carlton-Richmond game in 2018.

STATISTICS FOR COLLINGWOOD V PORT ADELAIDE

Collingwood v Port Adelaide by Venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Port Adel.	Drawn
Adelaide Oval	1	2	0
Docklands Stadium	5	1	0
Football Park	6	7	0
Gabba	0	1	0
MCG	8	7	0
	20	18	0

Last Time They Met - Round 6, 2024, MCG

	Collingwood	Port Adelaide
Quarter time	3.4	6.3
Half time	9.9	8.3
Three-quarter time	14.15	10.4
Full time	17.21 (123)	12.9 (81)

Highest Score

Collingwood	26.10 (166)	Rd 1	1997	MCG
Port Adel.	19.11 (125)	Rd 11	2016	MCG

Lowest Score

Collingwood	7.3 (45)	Rd 18	2020	Gabba
Port Adel.	3.3 (21)	Rd 20	2011	FP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	138 points	Rd 20	2011	FP
Port Adel.	67 points	Rd 11	2016	MCG

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>

BRITANNIA THEN COLLINGWOOD

The strongest of the local teams in the Collingwood area during the 1880s was Britannia Football Club. Britannia was founded in 1877 and, with Star of Carlton, were adjudged joint premiers of the Victorian Junior Football Association in 1884. Britannia had sought admission to the VFA on several occasions, but it was not considered strong enough to compete successfully in the senior competition. Many of its players were also recruited regularly by senior teams outside the suburb, particularly the neighbouring Fitzroy Football Club. However, a powerful push had developed to have a team in the VFA which represented Collingwood. During 1891 a new entity called the Collingwood Football Club was given an assurance that it would be admitted to the VFA in 1892. Britannia decided to disband early in 1892, its members reaching the conclusion that it would not be able to compete with the new club. Bitter about this turn of events, most of Britannia's players and officials threw in their lot with the Fitzroy Football Club.



Left: The Britannia Football Club in 1891, the club's last season. Britannia wore blue and white hoops with a red sash.

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.