



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

MAY 9, 2025

AFL 2025 ROUND 9

ST KILDA V CARLTON

ST KILDA'S FIRST LEAGUE WIN OVER CARLTON

Although St Kilda was a founder member of the Victorian Football League (VFL), they did not enjoy much success in the early years of the competition. St Kilda failed to win a game during the 1897, 1898 and 1899 seasons and their one victory in 1900 was in the first round against Melbourne. This game had ended in a draw on the scoreboard (67 points apiece) but the VFL later awarded the victory to St Kilda (by one point) after it was established that the field umpire had not seen one of the goal umpires wave his flag to record a St Kilda behind. While this was St Kilda's only win in 1900, Melbourne went on to take out the 1900 flag after they struck form late in the season.

St Kilda's second victory in the VFL was in Round 12, 1901, against Carlton. The *Argus* headed its report on this game – "After Many Days" – and then recorded the following about the match (first names have been added in brackets from AFL Tables and correct last names, where applicable, are also shown in the brackets):

St. Kilda won their first match since the inception of the league on the opening day of last season against Melbourne, but they did not repeat the offence until Saturday, when the seashiders obtained such a lead in the first quarter that they were never headed, and won their first game for the season against Carlton. ... St Kilda, favoured by a slight breeze, rattled up 6 goals before Carlton scored a point, (John Crennan), a junior from Balaclava, getting three, (Bill Matthews) two and (Cecil) Sandford one, and at quarter-time the scores were – St. Kilda 6-3; Carlton 0-2. From that out until the end of the third quarter St. Kilda only put on 3 behinds, while Carlton added 4 goals 3 behinds. In the final term, however, Carlton only added 3 behinds, while St. Kilda scored 1 goal 2 behinds. It was a good game, though rough in the last quarter. St. Kilda earned their victory, and their supporters were delighted. (Ivo) Crapp umpired well.

(Val) Robertson, who made some fine runs for St. Kilda, played a slashing game, and was well supported by Matthews, (Ben) and (Cecil) Sandford, (Henry) Pinning, (Jimmy) Smith, (John) Crennan, (Ted) Hall, (Dick) McCabe and (Arch) Muirhead. On the Carlton side, (Charlie) Roland played very well on the wing and forward, and (Harry) Evans, who was forward and on the wing, also did splendidly. (Fred) Elliott (ruck), (Bill) McNamara, (Charlie) Maplestone and (Harry) Powell all did good work.

The final scores were **St Kilda 7.8 (50) defeated Carlton 4.8 (32)**. This was St Kilda's only win for the season and they finished in eighth (and bottom) position on the ladder. Carlton were only one place ahead of them, with two wins – over South Melbourne in Round 4 and St Kilda in Round 5. St Kilda had to wait until the 1907 season (Round 1) for their next victory over Carlton. In that season, both St Kilda and Carlton made the finals, Carlton beating St Kilda in a semi-final before taking out their second flag in a row. The Blues added a third straight premiership in 1908.

DID YOU KNOW?

These two clubs have only met in five finals (in 1907, 1908, 1929, 1970 and 1972). None of these have been grand finals and Carlton have won all of them. The closest was a 1929 semi-final, which Carlton won by only eight points. The most recent final between the teams, the 1972 preliminary final, was also a tight affair. St Kilda led by 11 points at half-time, but the Blues kicked four goals to two in the third term to take a five-point lead into the final stanza. Five goals to three in the final quarter saw Carlton win by 16 points – 16.13 (109) to St Kilda 13.15 (93). Alex Jesaulenko kicked seven goals for the Blues, while Ian Corner, who played 13 games for the Saints in 1972 and 1973, was their leading goalkicker with three. Corner only kicked five goals in his entire VFL career.

OVER TO YOU

Who am I? I was born in New Zealand and recruited from Morningside in Queensland. I played 92 games (31 goals) with Carlton from 1978 to 1985. For much of my career I was the second choice ruck for the Blues, meaning that I often started games on the interchange bench. This was the case in the 1982 grand final, when I was a member of Carlton's premiership side. I ended my playing career with 31 games and five goals for St Kilda from 1986 to 1988.

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 9 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 9 score on the MCG is 32.19 (211) by Geelong against Richmond 10.17 (77) in 1989. This is also the highest score for this Round on all grounds. The most goals kicked in this round is 14 kicked by Gary Ablett Snr. in the same game. The greatest winning margin here in Round 9 is 141 points by Melbourne over Hawthorn in 1926 – 21.28 (154) to 1.7 (13). There has been one drawn game in Round 9 on the MCG. Melbourne and Collingwood each scored 10.5 (65) in 1909. Four drawn games have occurred on other grounds in Round 9. The highest Round 9 attendance was at the MCG in 1964 when 86,664 saw Melbourne 10.13 (73) defeat Collingwood 8.15 (63).

STATISTICS FOR ST KILDA V CARLTON

St Kilda v Carlton by Venue

	Won by St Kilda	Won by Carlton	Drawn
Docklands	20	9	0
Junction Oval	14	45	0
MCG	5	7	0
Moorabbin	7	15	0
Princes Park	8	80	2
Toorak Park	1	0	0
Waverley Park	5	8	0
Wellington	0	1	0
	60	165	2

Highest Score

St Kilda	31.10 (196)	Rd 10	2004	Dock
Carlton	24.26 (170)	Rd 3	1977	PP

Lowest Score

St Kilda	1.1 (7)	Rd 9	1915	JO
Carlton	2.5 (17)	Rd 10	1918	JO

Greatest Winning Margin

St Kilda	108 points	Rd 10	2004	Dock
Carlton	140 points	Rd 10	1918	JO

Last Time They Met – Round 24, 2024, Docklands

	St Kilda	Carlton
Quarter time	2.2	1.3
Half time	5.7	4.3
Three-quarter time	10.8	9.5
Full time	11.10 (76)	11.8 (74)

OVER TO YOU ANSWER:

Warren “Wow” Jones.

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Craig Devonport, who played both soccer and basketball in his youth, joined St Kilda from Croydon. He started his career as a forward and kicked two goals in his league debut against Essendon in Round 5, 1989. He made two further appearances for the Saints (in the following two rounds) that year. In 1990 he did not miss a single game, finishing as St Kilda’s fourth highest disposal getter and kicking 28 goals. He kicked five goals against Geelong, five against the West Coast Eagles at the WACA, all in one quarter, and bagged six against Fitzroy in the third last round of the home and away season. He only played in the second half of the 1991 season but had 26 disposals in the Saints’ elimination final loss to Geelong. In 1992, he kicked a career high 29 goals and had 20 disposals (three goals) in his team’s semi-final loss to Footscray. In subsequent seasons, Devonport was often used as a defender by St Kilda. Overall, he played 94 games, and kicked 80 goals, for the Saints from 1989 to 1995. He was traded to Carlton in the 1995 Draft, in return for the 19th draft pick, which St Kilda used to get Barry Hall. Despite kicking two goals for the Blues in his only AFL game in 1996 against Melbourne, Devonport was delisted at the end of the year.

Allan Greenshields, who was recruited from Pascoe Vale, was a reserve in Carlton’s 1947 premiership team but did not take the field during the game. In fact, he started on the bench in all but three of the 13 games he played for the Blues that season, earning him the nickname ‘Splinters’. He played only three more senior games for the Blues in 1948 and 1949, before deciding that he might get more opportunities at another club. He crossed to St Kilda during the 1949 season and was used mainly as a half back flanker by the Saints. He totalled 57 games (3 goals) for St Kilda from 1949 to 1954. According to *Blueseum*, although grateful for the second chance given to him by St Kilda, Greenshields remained a staunch Carlton supporter after his VFL career ended. He died in 2016, aged 90.

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library’s matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mccclcatalogue>

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.