



# MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

## JUNE 7, 2025

### AFL 2025 ROUND 13

### RICHMOND V SYDNEY

#### 1933 AND 1934 – SUCCESSIVE GRAND FINALS

Since South Melbourne moved north and became the Sydney Swans in 1982, these two sides have not met in a finals match. Before that, South Melbourne and Richmond had met in only six finals, the most recent being in 1977. Two of these were the 1933 and 1934 grand finals. The Tigers had won the 1932 flag and, after heading the ladder by two matches from South Melbourne at the end of the home-and-away rounds, were favoured to win back-to-back premierships in 1933. Nevertheless, after Richmond scored a close win over South in Round 8, South reversed matters in the second semi-final at the MCG, winning by 18 points. In the grand final two weeks later, a crowd of 75,754 saw South, with Bob Pratt and Laurie Nash starring, lead by 28 points at the main break. With Jack Dyer on the forward line and Percy Bentley in the ruck, the Tigers attacked relentlessly in the second half, but South's backline was impenetrable, and they ran out easy winners by 42 points. **South Melbourne 9.17 (71)** defeated **Richmond 4.5 (29)**. Bob Pratt ended the game with three goals for South, while Terry Brain and Brighton Diggins booted two goals each. The leading goalkicker for Richmond was Horrie Farmer with two.

Richmond headed the ladder again at the end of the 1934 home-and-away season, half a game ahead of Geelong and one game ahead of South Melbourne. South accounted for Collingwood by just three points in the first semi-final, while Richmond defeated Geelong by 84 points in the second semi-final the following Saturday. South's easy 60-point victory over Geelong in the preliminary final, set up another South Melbourne versus Richmond grand final. This time, Percy Bentley was Richmond's captain/coach, their 1932 premiership coach, "Checker" Hughes, having moved to Melbourne. South's 1933 captain-coach, Jack Bisset, was in charge again in 1934. The Tigers held a slender one-point advantage at quarter-time in the 1934 decider, played in front of 65,335 fans. They then got right on top in the second and third terms, kicking 12 goals to just two from South (both in the second quarter) to lead by ten goals at the final change. Six goals to three by South in the final quarter reduced the deficit, but Richmond still ran out comfortable winners by 39 points. **Richmond 19.14 (128)** defeated **South Melbourne 12.17 (89)**. Jack Titus kicked six goals for Richmond and Laurie Nash six for South. South's ace full forward, Bob Pratt, booted two goals in the grand final, taking his tally for the season to 150. Despite this, Pratt ran second in the club's best and fairest to rover Terry Brain.

#### JACK BISSET

Having previously played in country Victoria and at VFA club Port Melbourne, Bisset joined Richmond in 1928. He played 19 games for the Tigers that season, including their grand final loss to Collingwood. After two years away, during which he captain-coached Nhill in the Wimmera Football League, Bisset returned to Richmond in 1931, playing 19 games again and being a member of their losing grand final side, this time to Geelong. He moved to South Melbourne in 1932, and became the club's captain-coach in 1933. From 1932 to 1936, he played 90 games for South in the ruck, kicking nine goals. He coached South into the grand final every year from 1933 to 1936, but they couldn't repeat their 1933 premiership success in 1934 (losing to Richmond) or 1935 and 1936 (losing to Collingwood). Bisset was appointed captain-coach of Port Melbourne in 1937 but resigned during the season due the team's poor performances. He coached Rainbow in the South Mallee Football Association in 1938. Bisset was named as coach of the Sydney Swans Team of the Century when it was announced in 2003.

#### BOB PRATT MISSES THE 1935 GRAND FINAL

After Bob Pratt kicked six goals in South Melbourne's 21-point defeat of Collingwood in the 1935 second semi-final, he was absent from the grand final because of an injury sustained when he was hit by a truck. On the Thursday before the grand final, Pratt stepped off a Prahran-bound tram directly into the path of a truck carrying five tons of bricks. He was lucky not to be killed, but the injuries he received landed him in hospital and ruled him out of the grand final. The loss of Pratt was a major blow to South, who faced Collingwood in the big game, after the Magpies had defeated Richmond in the preliminary final. Pratt's replacement at full forward was Roy Moore, who kicked 144 goals for South in 66 games from 1935 to 1939 and in 1941. Moore had previously played 18 games as a forward during the 1935 season, kicking 50 goals. He kicked two goals in the grand final. Pratt had tallied 103 goals for the season when he was injured and his absence may well have helped Collingwood reverse their second semi final loss and take out their tenth VFL premiership with a 20-point grand final win.

## THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 13 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 13 score at the MCG is 29.18 (192) by Geelong against North Melbourne 17.13 (115) in 1992. The overall Round 13 record is 34.16 (220) by Fitzroy against North Melbourne 10.10 (70) at the Junction Oval in 1983. The highest score in a quarter at the MCG is 10.1 (61) by Geelong during the last quarter against Richmond in 1972. The overall Round 13 record for the highest score in a quarter is 13.2 (80) by South Melbourne against Carlton in the third quarter at the Lakeside Oval in 1934. The most goals kicked by an individual at the MCG in this Round is 11 by Doug Wade for Geelong against Richmond in 1972. The overall Round 13 record is 16 goals by Gordon Coventry for Collingwood against Hawthorn at Victoria Park in 1929. The highest Round 13 attendance at the MCG is 83,407 in 2009 when Essendon defeated Carlton.

## STATISTICS FOR RICHMOND V SYDNEY

### Richmond v Sydney by venue

	Won by Richmond	Won by Swans	Drawn
Adelaide Oval	0	1	0
Docklands Stadium	4	2	0
Gabba	1	0	0
Junction Oval	1	2	0
Lake Oval	31	26	1
MCG	29	16	0
Princes Park	1	0	0
Punt Road Oval	26	22	0
SCG	11	18	0
Stadium Australia	1	1	0
Waverley Park	5	2	0
Windy Hill	1	0	0
	111	90	1

### Highest Score

Richmond	26.11 (167)	Rd 16	1975	LO
Sydney	31.12 (198)	Rd 18	1987	SCG

### Lowest Score

Richmond	3.8 (26)	Rd 15	1909	LO
Sydney	3.8 (26)	Rd 6	2020	Gabba

### Greatest Winning Margin

Richmond	107 points	Rd 16	1975	LO
Sydney	118 points	Rd 7	2006	Dock

### Last Time They Met – Round 3, 2024, MCG

	Richmond	Sydney
Quarter time	4.3	2.1
Half time	5.9	7.5
Three-quarter time	10.13	8.9
Full time	11.16 (82)	11.11 (77)

### Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	J. Baggott	Rich	Rd 9	1928	PR
12	T. Lockett	Syd	Rd 19	1996	SCG
10	W. Capper	Syd	Rd 8	1986	SCG

## THE FOSCHINI CASE

**Silvio Foschini** played 38 games for the Swans in 1981 and 1982, kicking 79 goals. The Swans played their home games in Sydney in 1982 but the team continued to train in Melbourne at the Lake Oval. From the following year, all players were required to live in Sydney. Not wishing to relocate, Foschini unsuccessfully applied for a clearance to St Kilda. The case eventually went to court and the judge ruled that denying Foschini a clearance was a restraint of trade. He went on to play 69 games for St Kilda from 1983 to 1986 and in 1988, kicking 87 goals.

## ROUND 5, 1983

In addition to Silvio Foschini moving to St Kilda for the 1983 season, the Saints also gained the services of former Swans' player Paul Morwood. These moves led to quite a bit of animosity between the clubs and there were fears that the first clash between the teams in 1983 (in Round 5 at the SCG) might become heated. The Age reported, nevertheless, that there "were only a few nasty incidents". One player, St Kilda's Jeff Sarau, was reported but that was for disputing a decision. In a high scoring game, the Swans won by 23 points. The final scores were **Sydney 24.16 (160)** defeated **St Kilda 21.11 (137)**. Foschini kicked two goals for the Saints, and Morwood one, but St Kilda's major goalkicker was Mark Jackson with ten. Jackson had moved from Melbourne to the Saints at the end of the 1982 season. For Sydney, Vin Catoggio kicked six goals and Craig Braddy five. According to the Age, Sydney coach Ricky Quade consulted a barrister before making his victory speech. After the game he was reported to have said: "We won out on the ground and all their lawyers can't take the four points away from us." He added that it was "a shame football has come to this." Neither St Kilda nor Sydney performed particularly well in 1983. At the end of the season, they occupied the bottom two positions on the ladder, the Swans winning seven of their 22 games and the Saints just five.

## 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>

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