



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2021 ROUND 16 COLLINGWOOD V ST KILDA

LIBRARY FACT SHEET JULY 4, 2021

SEMI FINALS BETWEEN THE SIDES

These two sides have met in finals games on eleven occasions since the first year of VFL football, 1897, with the Saints winning six, the Magpies four, with one draw, the 2010 Grand Final. All but one of those games were played at the MCG, the other one being the 1992 Elimination Final at Waverley. Their first finals meeting was a Semi Final in 1918, played in front of 28,375 patrons at the 'G. In a close fought encounter only seven points separated the sides at the last change, with St Kilda in the lead. However, a one-sided last quarter saw the Saints manage just one behind. Despite their bad kicking for goal, the Magpies put on two goals five behinds to run out winners by nine points and progress to the Grand Final where they went down to South Melbourne by just five points.

It took another 21 years for the two sides to meet again at finals time, again in wartime. The 1939 Preliminary Final was played in front of a crowd of 66,848 fans. In another close fought tussle, the Magpies led by just eight points at three quarter time, but again outplayed the Saints in the last quarter to run out winners by 29 points. Ron Todd kicked 11 goals for Collingwood. Again the Magpies went down in the Grand Final, this time to Melbourne by 53 points. Having lost to St Kilda by a solitary point in a 1965 Semi Final, the two sides came up against each other in a Semi again the next season. This time the 'Pies ran out winners by 10 points to progress to the Grand Final where they met again in one of two memorable Grand Finals. The 1966 Grand Final saw the Saints record their one and only premiership win, beating the 'Pies by the barest margin. More recently, 100,016 fans witnessed their thrilling 2010 draw. The Magpies came back the next week to win their fifteenth flag.

AN EARLY GAME

"Observer" in the *Argus* of June 28, 1897 reported on the second VFL game between these sides:

COLLINGWOOD'S LAST QUARTER.

I can say little of the game between Collingwood and St. Kilda, except that the magpies, as might have been expected, on form, won it, though for a twenty disheartened by frequent reverses—if St. Kilda ever are disheartened—the Saints played a good losing game. They had just a gleam of hope when only three points separated them at the end of the third quarter. Collingwood have had to win several of their games this winter in the last quarter, and have still to be regarded as a team whose pluck is greater than their talent. It was largely their gift of finishing gamely that won them last year's pennant, and in this valuable quality they fairly share honours with Geelong. Some of their best men, Condon and Monohan particularly, never show the full extent of their powers until the possibility of failure demands it. Judging their play up to date by the performance of other teams, Collingwood may find it difficult to squeeze into the last four— though if it actually comes to a pinch at the finish we may be sure that we shall see them at their finest. And should they get into the finals—even by the skin of their teeth—one could not judiciously give any other team the preference over them, for they are the Diehards of League football.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

In 1921 a new face at Collingwood's pre-season training was noticed. The *Football Record* informed its readers that, "Syd Coventry, from Diamond Creek, has been making a name for himself at the practice games. He has the kicking power of a healthy horse. One evening he took a drop kick from the ten yards line. The ball landed well past the centre and rolled as far as the half forward line. 'The best kick I have ever seen' ", said Dick Lee."

The same edition of the *Record* reported something that is very unlikely to occur now: "A fine strapping young fellow came to South Melbourne from the country to get a game with the Red and White. He can play, too. He declined to take anything for his expenses of travelling all the distance, and declared he did not want to play for money. He put his fondness for football above considerations of that sort."

FACTSHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

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

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

This Round in History – Round 16 on the MCG

The highest score in Round 16 on the MCG is 27.18 (180) by Hawthorn against Richmond 17.11 (113) in 1985. The overall Round 16 record is 34.18 (222) by Richmond against St Kilda 11.4 (70) at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1980. The most goals by an individual is 11 by Dermott Brereton for Hawthorn against Richmond in 1990. Hawthorn kicked 25.9 (159) to win by 91 points. The overall Round 16 goal-kicking record is 13 by Tony Modra for Adelaide against Richmond at Football Park (Adelaide) in 1993. Adelaide kicked 26.15 (171) to win by 139 points. The highest score in a quarter is 12.1 (73) in the first quarter by the Kangaroos against Essendon in 2001. Despite trailing by 58 points at the first change, Essendon went on to win by 12 points: 27.9 (171) to 25.9 (159). The overall Round 16 record for the highest score in a quarter is 13.3 (81) by Hawthorn against North Melbourne in the first quarter at Princes Park in 1982. Hawthorn went on to kick 32.14 (206) to win by 96 points. The highest Round 16 attendance at the MCG is 83,773 on Sunday July 19, 1998 when Essendon defeated Richmond by 19 points.

Statistics for Collingwood v St Kilda

Collingwood v St Kilda by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by St Kilda	Drawn
Victoria Park	77	7	0
Junction Oval	37	21	0
Moorabbin	12	6	1
Docklands	7	6	0
MCG	18	10	1
Waverley Park	9	8	0
Prahran	0	1	0
	160	59	2

Highest Score

Collingwood	32.19 (211)	Rd 17	1980	Wav
St Kilda	22.16 (148)	Rd 21	1982	Wav

Lowest Score

Collingwood	3.8 (26)	Rd 15	1907	JO
St Kilda	1.0 (6)	Rd 13	1898	VP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	178 points	Rd 4	1979	VP
St Kilda	88 points	Rd 7	2009	Dock

Most Goals in a Match

11	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 7	1927	VP
11	Bill Mohr	St K	Rd 17	1931	JO
11	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 17	1931	JO
11	Ron Todd	Coll	PF	1939	MCG
11	Phil Carman	Coll	Rd 20	1975	Moor
10	Bill Mohr	St K	Rd 8	1930	VP
10	Allan Davis	St K	Rd 8	1971	Moor

Last Time They Met – Round 3, 2020, MCG

	Collingwood	St Kilda
Quarter time	5.3	2.1
Half time	10.4	4.2
Three-quarter time	11.7	5.6
Full time	12.9 (81)	5.7 (37)

DID YOU KNOW?

Western Australian **Mal Brown** has cultivated a reputation for being obstinate during his decades as a football player, coach and official. In 1978 as coach of the Western Australian club South Fremantle he was banned from entering the playing arena on two charges of misconduct towards the umpires and three of abusive language. Therefore, for the next match he had a tent erected that spanned the fence and allowed him to address his players at quarter and three-quarter time in privacy. While Mal's behavior as coach generated some 14 months of suspensions, when suspended he would usually designate a deputy to address players from his notes. It was only when he truly wanted to peeve officialdom that he would pull an expensive stunt. In 1981, after South Fremantle's Darryl Stokes was rushed to a hospital from a reserves practice match with a broken jaw, Brown pulled the team from the field. He then went to the Fremantle police station and made a criminal complaint against the offending Swan Districts player. The WAFL initially fined Brown \$1000 for interrupting the match, sparking an outraged Brown to burst into a WAFL directors' meeting and let them know exactly what he thought of it, and them. The fine was ultimately reduced to \$100, but it was coupled with another fine for the boardroom spray. The latter decision occurred during the week leading to the WAFL's first Sunday match on May 24, when South was to play West Perth at Subiaco Oval. Unwilling to pay the fines and before an attendance of 11,180, Brown this time had a cherry-picker, lower him over the fence at quarter-time to address his players.

It should not be overlooked that **Harold Martin**, who played one game for Fitzroy in 1968, also coached a VFA game from a cherry-picker basket. The fiery Martin coached the Box Hill Mustangs in 1987 and 1988, and during a 76-point thumping by Coburg on Sunday June 19, 1988, he abused the umpires. Martin was therefore suspended and forbidden to step on to the field by the VFA. The following Sunday, at three-quarter time against Frankston, a cherry-picker arm carried Martin over the Box Hill City Oval fence to address his players. Box Hill then came from seven points down at the last break to beat Frankston 12.18 (90) to 12.11 (83).