



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2021 ROUND 7 ESSENDON V CARLTON

LIBRARY FACT SHEET MAY 2, 2021

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The 1921 *Football Record* tells us how MCG capacity problems could have been solved:

“As the crowds at home and home matches are growing bigger and bigger, how will all who want to see the final get into the Melbourne Cricket Ground? If you will permit me to answer my own question I will say that, there will be many thousands who will not be able to find room inside. If there are captive balloons handy I am sure that seats will be at a premium for the chance of viewing the games from the air.”

AN EARLY BOMBER FULL FORWARD

Frank “Rabbit” McDonald came to Essendon from then Victorian Football Association side Footscray in 1919, making his first appearance in Round 10 that season. Coincidentally, this was his brother Paddy’s last game with the side. After his first game Frank was quoted as saying: “I found that the League game was faster, and played with deadly seriousness. In the League it is real football and nothing else and before I found myself I didn’t know if I was on my head or my heels.” Frank led Essendon’s goalkicking in seasons 1920 with 33 goals from 11 games, and 1921 with 17 goals in 10 games. He was selected in the Victorian State side in 1920 and was also in the League side that played against Bendigo in 1921. At the end of 1921 he went off to coach Hamilton in the Western District Football League, later returning to the ‘Dons to coach their Third Eighteen for eight years.

THE MADDEN CUP

The Madden Cup is contested by Carlton and Essendon and was named after the Madden brothers. The elder, Simon Madden, was an outstanding ruckman for Essendon, for which he played 378 games and kicked 575 goals from 1974 until 1992. He was the Dons’ captain in 1980 and 1981, and was a member of the club’s 1984 and 1985 premiership teams, winning the Norm Smith Medal as the best player in the 1985 grand final. He was Essendon’s best and fairest player in 1977, 1979, 1983 and 1984, and Essendon’s leading goalkicker in 1980, 1982, and 1991. Simon played 17 games for Victoria, captaining his state in three years, and was selected in the 1983, 1987 and 1988 All-Australian teams. He is a member of the Australian Football Hall of Fame, was selected in Essendon’s Team of the Century, and named as the club’s fifth best player in the “Champions of Essendon” list.

Justin Madden was born four years after Simon, but at 206cm he stood 8cm taller. He made his VFL/AFL debut for Essendon in 1980. He played 45 games and kicked 20 goals over three seasons for the Dons before switching to Carlton in 1983. There, no longer in his brother’s shadow, Justin was able to become the club’s main ruckman. He played 287 games for the Blues and kicked 170 goals before he retired in 1996. He played in Carlton’s 1987 and 1995 premiership teams and was selected in the 1995 All-Australian team. In 1985 Justin was runner-up in the Brownlow Medal, falling one vote short of Brad Hardie’s total.

The Madden Cup was first contested on Easter Monday, April 13, 1998. Essendon 14.15 (99) defeated Carlton 14.14 (98) before a crowd of 68,177. The Bombers had led by as much as 35 points late in the second quarter. It was from the 21st minute of the third term, after Scott Camporeale had goaled for the Blues, that Carlton started to peg back the Dons’ lead. Carlton did have chances to win, as the ball was in their forward area during the last few minutes. However, Essendon employed tempo football late in the term, chipping the ball backwards and laterally to unmanned players, and running down the clock. Brad Pearce kicked four goals for Carlton while Mark Mercuri, Scott Lucas and Che Cockatoo-Collins all kicked three for Essendon.

The Madden Cup was most recently contested on June 27, 2020, at the MCG. It was played in a closed stadium due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Carlton won by one point, 7.10 (52) to Essendon’s 8.3 (51). Essendon’s Jacob Townsend had a shot at goal to win with 21 seconds remaining. He was 50 metres out, directly in front, but the ball came off hands and was called a behind. Essendon has won the Madden Cup 13 times, while Carlton has won it 11 times. The Dons’ most recent win was in 2019.

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

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

This Round in History – Round 7 on the MCG

The highest score on the MCG in Round 7 is 28.12 (180) by North Melbourne against Melbourne 22.11 (143) in 1982. The overall Round 7 record is 37.17 (239) by Geelong against the Brisbane Bears 11.9 (75) at Carrara in 1992. The biggest winning margin at the MCG in Round 7 is 122 points by Melbourne 25.16 (166) when they defeated North Melbourne 5.14 (44) in 1937. The overall Round 7 record is 164 points by Geelong against the Brisbane Bears at Carrara in 1992. The lowest Round 7 score at the MCG since 1925 is 3.9 (27) by North Melbourne against Melbourne 15.21 (111) in 1927. This is the overall Round 7 record since 1925. The most goals by an individual in Round 7 at the MCG is 10 by Sydney's Tony Lockett against Collingwood in 1998. The overall Round 7 record is 17 by Jason Dunstall for Hawthorn versus Richmond at Waverley Park in 1992. The highest score in a quarter for Round 7 at the MCG is 10.3 (63) by the Kangaroos against Adelaide in the first quarter in 1999 and by North Melbourne against Melbourne in the second quarter in 1982. The overall Round 7 record is 14.3 (87) in the fourth quarter by Geelong when playing the Brisbane Bears at Carrara in 1992. The highest Round 7 attendance was in 2000 when 88,390 saw Essendon defeat Collingwood by 40 points at the MCG on Anzac Day.

Statistics for Essendon v Carlton

Essendon v Carlton by venue

	Won by Essendon	Won by Carlton	Drawn
MCG	38	28	4
East Melb.	14	11	1
Princes Park	28	48	1
SCG	0	1	0
Victoria Park	0	1	0
Waverley Park	11	6	0
Windy Hill	27	30	0
	118	125	6

Highest Score

Essendon	2.2 (14)	Rd 10	1903	PP
Carlton	1.2 (8)	Rd 15	1898	EMCG

Lowest Score

Essendon	28.14 (182)	Rd 21	2005	MCG
Carlton	27.13 (175)	Rd 14	1975	WH

Greatest Winning Margin

Essendon	109 points	Rd 6	1985	WH
Carlton	102 points	Rd 2	1936	PP

Last Time They Met – Round 4, 2020, MCG

	Carlton	Essendon
Quarter time	3.0	2.1
Half time	5.3	4.1
Three-quarter time	5.8	6.2
Full time	7.10 (52)	8.3 (51)

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.

THE FOOTY

Whilst there is always discussion about when the very first game of "Australian" football was played, there appears to be little doubt that the ball used in early games was a round ball. However, in 1860, Tom Wills, who was involved in formulating the early laws of the game, chose to use a Rugby ball in an early game between the Richmond and Melbourne teams. Early on, it was up to the clubs to choose whether they used the round or the oval ball. Some argued that the oval ball was unreliable with its flight and bounce. As time went on the Rugby ball became the favoured selection. These were much larger than the current sized ball, as can be seen from images of that time. The Sherrin company, T W Sherrin Pty Ltd, was started in 1879 by Thomas William Sherrin, manufacturing various sporting goods, including footballs. The first footballs manufactured had a noticeably different shape, with either end being flatter and less pointed than the current model. The company set up its factory in Wellington Street, Collingwood and, as time went on, its footballs came to be preferred by the local clubs. In the 1890s the Victorian Football Association decreed that a No. 2 Rugby ball was to be used, the dimensions of which had previously been formally determined. It was when some of the VFA clubs seceded and formed the Victorian Football League in 1897 that the Sherrin company became their favoured supplier of footballs. This arrangement has survived to the present. The company was purchased by Spalding Australia in 1972, who on sold it to the Russell Corporation in 2003. Slowly, over time, the size of the ball has reduced. The current Laws of Australian Football Para. 4.1 tells us that "a football shall be of a symmetrical oval shape and conform to the standard size of 720-730 millimetres in circumference and 545-555 millimetres transverse circumference and be inflated to a pressure of 62-76 Kpa." The Sherrin website tells us that "Sherrin game balls continue to be crafted in the very same way TW invented". They produce around 500 balls a day, with some 200 different styles in their range.