



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

AFL 2023 FIRST SEMI FINAL MELBOURNE V CARLTON

THEIR FIRST FINAL

Carlton and Melbourne played their first VFL finals match in 1915. In that season Carlton finished second on the ladder and Melbourne fourth. Under the finals system in operation at the time the second and fourth placed teams met in the first of the semi finals, the loser being eliminated from the premiership race. Carlton were favoured to win but, kicking with the wind in the first quarter, Melbourne opened up a 10-point lead by kicking 3.5 to 2.1. Carlton kicked two goals to one in the second quarter and held a four-point advantage at the main break – 4.9 to 4.5. Four goals to three in the third term put Melbourne back front by three points at the final change, the scores being Melbourne 8.7 to Carlton 7.10. The *Argus* (August 30) reported the following on the final quarter of the game:

“Soon after the opening of the last quarter Gardiner with a very fine shot got Carlton’s eighth goal, and once more they led by three points. They seemed to pass out of danger, when Fisher played the ball up to Valentine, who rushed a good ninth goal, and Green scored the tenth. But the reds were not yet beaten. Chiefly through Allen’s fine play, J McKenzie got their ninth goal. Then Gardiner, with the first place kick of the day, scored [the] eleventh goal for Carlton. Elston came with the tenth for Melbourne, but though they were only a few points behind the bell rang before the reds had any further chance to equalise the scores and a very good game in the circumstances ended:- **Carlton 11.12 (78) defeated Melbourne 10.7 (67)**.”



Carlton’s Vin Gardiner

THEIR MOST RECENT FINAL

The second qualifying final in 2000 was the last time these two sides faced off in a final. Played at the MCG before 75,570 fans, Carlton led at every change, by six points at quarter time, 16 points at the main break and 21 points at the final change. However, a stunning last quarter saw Melbourne kick seven goals to Carlton’s two, and at the final siren the Demons prevailed by nine points. For the Demons Brad Green kicked four goals, with Cameron Bruce, Stephen Powell and David Schwartz each kicking two. For the Blues Matthew Lappin and Lance Whitnall each kicked three. **Melbourne 15.6 (96) def. Carlton 12.15 (87)**. Melbourne went on to defeat North Melbourne by 50 points in the second preliminary final, but were outclassed by Essendon in the grand final, going down by 60 points.

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Described in *The Encyclopedia of AFL Footballers* as: “A big-hearted and honest defender,” **Peter Rohde** came to Carlton from Sandhurst in the Bendigo Football League, making his debut for the Blues in 1985 and playing a total of 46 games (6 goals) for the club; but having been dropped by coach Robert Walls during the team’s final series in 1987, he went off to Melbourne at the end of the season. From 1988 to 1995, whilst being plagued by injuries, Rohde managed to play 117 games (22 goals) for the Demons, retiring at the end of the 1995 season. As senior coach of the Norwood club in the SANFL, Rohde took the side to a premiership in 1997. He was appointed as an assistant coach of the Western Bulldogs in 2002 and when senior coach Terry Wallace suddenly resigned, he took over and was subsequently formally appointed to the position. With the club finishing 16th in 2003 and 14th in 2004, he was sacked with four rounds to go, but agreed to remain until the end of the season. Rohde was then appointed as Football Operations Manager by the Port Adelaide Football Club, a position he held until 2014.

OVER TO YOU

In the history of the Melbourne Football Club three players have, in the same year, captained the side, won the club’s best and fairest award, and led their goalkicking. Can you name them?

FIRST SEMI FINALS EXPLAINED

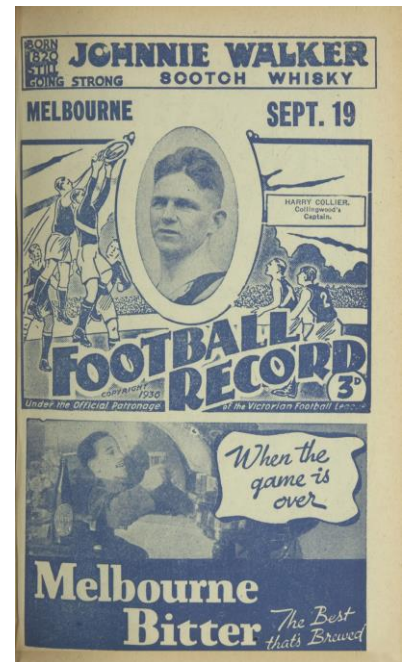
Semi finals were introduced in 1902, the sixth season of the VFL competition. Under what was originally called the “Argus” system, the teams that finished second and fourth at the end of the home and away season played off in the first semi final and the teams that came first and third played off in the second semi final. The winners played off in a final.

However, if the team that finished on top, known as the minor premier, was defeated in either the second semi final or the final, it had the right to challenge for the premiership in a grand final. With minor modifications this system remained in force until 1930, apart from 1924 when the VFL unsuccessfully experimented with a round-robin final series.

After the introduction of the Page-McIntyre finals system in 1931, the first semi final was played in the first week of the finals series between the teams that finished third and fourth on the ladder. The loser was eliminated and the winner faced the loser of the second semi final. In 1972 the McIntyre final five system was introduced. The first semi final has been played in the second week of finals since. Between 1972 and 1990 the game was played between the winner of the elimination final and the loser of the qualifying final.

With the introduction of the McIntyre final six system in 1991 the first semi final was played between the winner of the first elimination final and the loser of the first qualifying final. In 1992 and 1993 the system was revamped with the first semi final being played between the loser of the qualifying final and the lower-placed elimination final winner.

The McIntyre final eight system, that was first used in 1994, saw the two lowest-placed losing teams eliminated in the first week. The first semi final was held in the second week between the fourth and second-highest placed qualifying finals winners. Since 2000, as part of the revised final eight system, the first semi final has been played between the winner of the first elimination final and the loser of the first qualifying final.



The *Football Record* for the 1936 first semi final. Melbourne defeated Carlton by nine points.

FIRST SEMI FINALS 1931-2022

1931	MCG	Carlton	20.10 (130)	Collingwood	5.12 (42)	51,140
1932	MCG	Collingwood	17.12 (114)	South Melbourne	12.16 (88)	51,209
1933	MCG	Geelong	12.12 (84)	Carlton	10.11 (71)	40,225
1934	MCG	South Melbourne	11.12 (78)	Collingwood	9.21 (75)	52,022
1935	MCG	Richmond	19.11 (125)	Carlton	14.20 (104)	49,759
1936	MCG	Melbourne	14.13 (97)	Carlton	11.22 (88)	55,094
1937	MCG	Collingwood	18.12 (120)	Richmond	10.9 (69)	41,663
1938	MCG	Collingwood	18.9 (117)	Footscray	10.16 (76)	68,556
1939	MCG	St Kilda	10.12 (72)	Richmond	6.6 (42)	51,411
1940	MCG	Essendon	13.14 (92)	Geelong	10.14 (74)	44,187
1941	MCG	Essendon	21.9 (135)	Richmond	11.15 (81)	57,741
1942	Princes Park	South Melbourne	13.13 (91)	Footscray	7.22 (64)	25,000
1943	Princes Park	Fitzroy	13.16 (94)	Carlton	5.13 (43)	39,874
1944	Junction Oval	Essendon	14.17 (101)	Footscray	8.4 (52)	24,542
1945	Princes Park	Carlton	14.10 (94)	North Melbourne	8.20 (68)	54,846
1946	MCG	Melbourne	17.18 (120)	Footscray	15.12 (102)	61,277
1947	MCG	Fitzroy	16.7 (103)	Richmond	11.9 (75)	82,570
1948	MCG	Collingwood	17.17 (119)	Footscray	12.12 (84)	71,514
1949	MCG	Essendon	20.16 (136)	Collingwood	8.6 (54)	67,702
1950	MCG	Geelong	13.10 (88)	Melbourne	6.8 (44)	54,721
1951	MCG	Essendon	8.13 (61)	Footscray	8.5 (53)	66,135
1952	MCG	Fitzroy	10.9 (69)	Carlton	8.20 (68)	59,970
1953	MCG	Footscray	6.13 (49)	Essendon	5.11 (41)	68,533
1954	MCG	Melbourne	16.14 (110)	North Melbourne	11.14 (80)	41,971
1955	MCG	Geelong	9.7 (61)	Essendon	7.11 (53)	68,109
1956	MCG	Footscray	5.13 (43)	Geelong	6.5 (41)	79,402
1957	MCG	Hawthorn	10.11 (71)	Carlton	6.12 (48)	69,455
1958	MCG	North Melbourne	10.10 (70)	Fitzroy	9.12 (66)	68,213
1959	MCG	Essendon	14.16 (100)	Collingwood	8.14 (62)	86,198
1960	MCG	Collingwood	9.12 (66)	Essendon	7.15 (57)	81,209
1961	MCG	Footscray	9.15 (69)	St Kilda	8.12 (60)	86,411
1962	MCG	Carlton	11.12 (78)	Melbourne	11.10 (76)	82,773
1963	MCG	Melbourne	9.17 (71)	St Kilda	8.16 (64)	88,914
1964	MCG	Geelong	12.12 (84)	Essendon	10.5 (65)	92,231

1965	MCG	Essendon	14.19 (103)	Geelong	7.9 (51)	89,833
1966	MCG	Essendon	15.6 (96)	Geelong	12.14 (86)	93,765
1967	MCG	Geelong	16.12 (108)	Collingwood	11.12 (78)	91,715
1968	MCG	Geelong	19.13 (127)	St Kilda	11.17 (83)	98,885
1969	MCG	Richmond	25.17 (167)	Geelong	7.7 (49)	101,233
1970	MCG	St Kilda	22.11 (143)	South Melbourne	13.12 (90)	104,239
1971	MCG	Richmond	18.13 (121)	Collingwood	11.11 (77)	99,771
1972	MCG	St Kilda	11.17 (83)	Collingwood	8.17 (65)	91,857
1973	MCG	Richmond	15.18 (108)	St Kilda	9.14 (68)	86,483
1974	MCG	Hawthorn	21.12 (138)	Collingwood	13.10 (88)	86,795
1975	MCG	Richmond	9.17 (71)	Carlton	9.8 (62)	76,967
1976	MCG	North Melbourne	14.9 (93)	Geelong	8.12 (60)	71,042
1977	Waverley	North Melbourne	16.14 (110)	Richmond	9.9 (63)	48,105
1978	MCG	Collingwood	15.18 (108)	Carlton	13.15 (93)	91,933
1979	MCG	Collingwood	16.20 (116)	Fitzroy	12.22 (94)	87,139
1980	MCG	Collingwood	22.20 (152)	Carlton	15.12 (102)	94,451
1981	MCG	Collingwood	19.19 (133)	Fitzroy	19.18 (132)	85,133
1982	MCG	Hawthorn	24.22 (166)	North Melbourne	18.6 (114)	61,729
1983	MCG	Essendon	16.13 (109)	Fitzroy	12.14 (86)	81,090
1984	Waverley	Carlton	14.9 (93)	Collingwood	17.16 (118)	70,634
1985	MCG	Footscray	19.23 (137)	North Melbourne	16.11 (107)	56,112
1986	MCG	Fitzroy	13.16 (94)	Sydney	13.11 (89)	65,763
1987	MCG	Melbourne	21.23 (149)	Sydney	10.13 (73)	80,292
1988	MCG	Melbourne	13.17 (95)	Collingwood	12.10 (82)	87,407
1989	MCG	Geelong	22.21 (153)	Melbourne	12.18 (90)	69,082
1990	Waverley	Melbourne	15.10 (100)	West Coast	19.16 (130)	43,485
1991	Waverley	Melbourne	12.7 (79)	West Coast	17.15 (117)	41,136
1992	Waverley	Footscray	19.5 (119)	St Kilda	14.6 (90)	59,512
1993	MCG	Essendon	16.12 (108)	West Coast	11.10 (76)	75,453
1994	MCG	Melbourne	21.18 (144)	Footscray	9.11 (65)	65,557
1995	MCG	North Melbourne	18.21 (129)	West Coast	10.11 (71)	53,759
1996	MCG	Essendon	22.12 (144)	West Coast	8.19 (67)	85,656
1997	MCG	North Melbourne	15.8 (98)	West Coast	12.13 (85)	55,781
1998	MCG	Melbourne	15.17 (107)	St Kilda	7.14 (56)	88,456
1999	MCG	Carlton	18.16 (124)	West Coast	10.10 (70)	55,682
2000	MCG	Kangaroos	16.14 (110)	Hawthorn	15.10 (100)	50,027
2001	MCG	Richmond	10.7 (67)	Carlton	7.14 (56)	83,323
2002	Football Park	Port Adelaide	11.17 (83)	Essendon	8.11 (59)	27,661
2003	Football Park	Port Adelaide	12.11 (83)	Essendon	6.8 (44)	36,557
2004	MCG	Geelong	10.14 (74)	Essendon	9.10 (64)	53,356
2005	Football Park	Adelaide	18.15 (123)	Port Adelaide	5.10 (40)	50,521
2006	Subiaco Oval	West Coast	16.17 (113)	Western Bulldogs	5.9 (39)	43,219
2007	MCG	Kangaroos	14.9 (93)	Hawthorn	8.12 (60)	74,981
2008	MCG	St Kilda	17.4 (106)	Collingwood	9.18 (72)	76,707
2009	MCG	Collingwood	12.11 (83)	Adelaide	11.12 (78)	62,184
2010	MCG	Western Bulldogs	11.11 (77)	Sydney	10.12 (72)	39,596
2011	Subiaco Oval	West Coast	15.11 (101)	Carlton	15.8 (98)	42,803
2012	MCG	Collingwood	10.13 (73)	West Coast	9.6 (60)	65,483
2013	Stadium Australia	Sydney	13.8 (86)	Carlton	8.14 (62)	37,980
2014	Subiaco Oval	Fremantle	11.17 (83)	Port Adelaide	15.15 (105)	42,338
2015	Stadium Australia	Sydney	7.9 (51)	North Melbourne	11.11 (77)	31,162
2016	SCG	Sydney	18.10 (118)	Adelaide	12.10 (82)	38,136
2017	Syd. Showground	Greater Western Sydney	19.11 (125)	West Coast	9.4 (58)	14,865
2018	MCG	Hawthorn	10.11 (71)	Melbourne	16.8 (104)	90,152
2019	MCG	Geelong	13.10 (88)	West Coast	10.8 (68)	51,813
2020	Gabba	Geelong	15.10 (100)	Collingwood	5.2 (32)	21,396
2021	Gabba	Brisbane Lions	11.12 (78)	Western Bulldogs	11.13 (79)	30,647
2022	MCG	Collingwood	11.13 (79)	Fremantle	9.5 (59)	90,612

FIRST SEMI FINALS AT THE MCG (1931-2022)

The MCG last hosted a first semi final in 2022, when Collingwood defeated Fremantle. The record attendance for a first semi final is 104,239 for the match between St Kilda and South Melbourne at the MCG in 1970. The record score for a first semi final is 25.17 (167) by Richmond against Geelong 7.7 (49) in 1969. The 118-point margin is a record for a semi final. The highest score for a semi final is by Brisbane 26.14 (170) in the second semi final against Carlton 10.13 (73) in 1996. The greatest aggregate score in a semi final is 280 points in the 1982 first semi final when Hawthorn 24.22 (166) defeated North Melbourne 18.6 (114). The overall record for a quarter in a semi final is 10.10 (70) by Geelong in the first semi final against Melbourne in 1989. The best bag of goals in a first semi final is 11 by Carlton's Harry Vallenge at the MCG in 1931.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V CARLTON

Melbourne v Carlton by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Carlton	Drawn
MCG	56	52	1
Docklands	2	3	0
Motordrome	0	1	0
Princes Park	33	52	1
Punt Road	2	2	0
Waverley	4	9	0
	97	119	2

Highest Score

Melbourne	25.10 (160)	Rd 6	2004	MCG
Carlton	25.15 (165)	Rd 10	1986	MCG

Lowest Score

Melbourne	2.4 (16)	Rd 3	1899	PP
Carlton	1.2 (8)	Rd 7	1903	MCG

Greatest Winning Margin

Carlton	116 points	Rd 10	1986	MCG
Melbourne	109 points	Rd 9	2018	MCG

Last Time They Met - Round 22, 2023, MCG

	Carlton	Melbourne
Quarter time	1.3	1.0
Half time	3.5	3.3
Three-quarter time	6.6	6.6
Full time	9.6 (60)	8.8 (56)

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 Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.

THE BLUES RECRUIT REPLACEMENTS FOR "CARPET KNIGHTS" IN 1870

On June 18, 1870, a correspondent for the *Australasian*, using the pen-name "Hare", wrote about the football match between the then dominant Melbourne and Carlton football clubs the previous week. Both were short of players, and Carlton's captain Jack Conway was forced to undertake some last minute recruiting:

"Whew! Cold, isn't it? Let's put on our top coats, and take a stretch down to the football match in Richmond paddock. A bracing walk, and here we are with a crowd of a couple of thousand or so waiting for the tussle to begin. A splendid day for exercise, and we will soon have to stamp about to keep our toes warm. Black clouds hanging about the sky look ominous but I think it will hold up. Now the sun is out for a few moments, and how weirdly beautiful the golden tinge of sunshine looks upon the trees, with the deep black background of thundercloud. But that is passing away in the east. Now, then here they come. The contending forces file out of the gate behind the pavilion, mingling for the time in noisy fraternity. It looks cold in the guernseys, but the work will be hot soon. The red caps are Melbourne, the yellow Carlton. Hurrah for Carlton! Since that's where we hail from. The hurrahs of our party are echoed with shouts for the Metropolitans by the others. The captains are not on the field yet, but make their appearance in a moment or two amidst more cheering. [H.C.A.] Harrison is known by his red jacket, and Jack Conway by his zebra-striped cap. Now the leaders separate, and each is surrounded by a cluster of his men. Conway upon whom rests the honor of Carlton, looks anxious as he surveys his squad, for some carpet knights of the first twenty would not venture abroad today. However, Melbourne is something short too, and it is agreed to play with seventeen aside. Still Jack hasn't even got his seventeen. Only fifteen yellow caps stand around. Jack shades his eyes with his hand, and casts a rapid glance along the crowd to spot out some recruits who will make up his weight at all events. Suddenly he shouts out first to one, then to another and the appeal is not in vain. After a little hesitation, two of the spectators leap into the arena, and rush across to the pavilion, where they divest themselves of uppers, and come up prepared for the fray. Ready! Both sides spread but and then walk slowly backwards waiting for Harrison's kick off..."

Melbourne won the June 11 match one goal to nil before a crowd of about 2,000 spectators at the Melbourne Football Ground, being the parkland immediately north of the MCG. Melbourne completed the 1870 season undefeated, with seven wins and four draws.

OVER TO YOU ANSWER

Hassa Mann in 1967, Garry Lyon in 1994, and David Neitz in 2002.

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's match day fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mcccatalogue>