



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 20 RICHMOND V MELBOURNE

LIBRARY FACT SHEET JULY 30, 2023

RICHMOND VERSUS MELBOURNE AT THE MOTORDROME

After the National Games early in 1932, the MCG surface was top-dressed in preparation for the 1932 English cricket tour. It was not available for VFL games until after Round 6, so Melbourne's Round 2, 4 and 6 home games were played at the Motordrome (later known as Olympic Park) in Swan Street. The Motordrome, also used for night football, had previously been used for VFA finals. Melbourne's Round 2 home game against Richmond on Saturday May 7 was the first of their 1932 games to be played at the Motordrome. The game resulted in an easy 61-point win for the Tigers. Melbourne was six points in front at quarter time and Richmond held a five-point lead at half-time. After the main break, however, the Tigers got right on top and they kicked 11 goals to Melbourne's three in the second half. The final scores were Richmond 15.26 (116) to Melbourne 7.13 (55). Gordon Strang kicked seven goals for the Tigers and Jack Titus five. Melbourne's multiple goal scorers were Reg Conole, George Margitich and Leo Nolan with two each. Under the heading "Stamina Prevails", the *Age* reported that: "Playing the open game and displaying greater pace and determination, Melbourne troubled Richmond during the first half of the game at the Motordrome on Saturday, but the visitors, in characteristic style, gradually wore down the home side, and out marked and outplayed them in practically every department." The *Age* added that: "Melbourne require solid training, for during the last term their condition told on them, and they were left standing." Melbourne lost their first eight games of the 1932 season and were bottom of the ladder before returning to the MCG for their Round 9 clash with St Kilda, which resulted in their first win. They won three more games to finish the season ninth on the ladder with four wins and 14 losses. The powerful Richmond side finished second on the ladder, half a game behind Carlton. The Tigers were too strong for the Blues in the second semi final, winning by 25 points after trailing at three quarter time. They faced the Blues again in the grand final and won by nine points. The 1932 Richmond side was coached by Francis Vane "Checker" Hughes, who had previously been a member of the Tigers' 1920 and 1921 premiership teams during an 87-game career from 1914 to 1923 (interrupted by three and a half years war service). At the end of 1932 Hughes moved to Melbourne, instilling a more disciplined approach at the club and being instrumental in changing their nickname from the "Fuchsias" to the "Demons". Hughes coached Melbourne to premierships in 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1948.

1940 GRAND FINAL

Melbourne and Richmond have met in a grand final only once, in 1940. Melbourne had won the flag the year before and finished the 1940 home-and-away rounds on top of the ladder with 14 wins and four losses. Richmond were second with 12 wins and six losses, just ahead of the third-placed Essendon on percentage. Richmond triumphed by six points in a closely-contested second semi-final at the MCG and went straight through to the grand final. Melbourne then defeated Essendon by five points in the preliminary final to earn a re-match with the Tigers the following week. Following their second semi final victory, Richmond probably started favourites but the Demons, coached by Frank "Checker" Hughes and captained by Allan La Fontaine, remained quietly confident of a victory. Hughes believed that Richmond champion Jack Dyer was the Demons' major threat, so he appointed Jack O'Keefe to "tag" him, a ploy that was so successful that Dyer had little influence on the game. Before a large crowd of 70,330, Melbourne stormed to a 45-point lead at half-time and eventually ran out easy winners 15.17 (107) to Richmond's 10.8 (68). Despite wet and greasy conditions, Norm Smith kicked seven goals at full forward, giving him a total of 86 for the season. Percy Beames, who had starred in Melbourne's 1939 grand final win over Collingwood, was again one of the best players on the ground.

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Laurie Fowler played 49 games for Richmond from 1971 to 1974, kicking seven goals, before moving to Melbourne, where he played 140 games (18 goals) from 1975 to 1981. He won Melbourne's best and fairest award on three occasions – 1975, 1979 and 1980 – and represented Victoria in 1980 and 1981. Despite giving the Demons great service, he is probably best remembered for upending the much heavier John Nicholls in the 1973 grand final and helping his team on the path to victory. He also nullified Carlton's resting rovers in that game and gave a fine back pocket exhibition. He finished his playing career with the VFA clubs Waverley and Springvale.

This Round in History – Round 20 on the MCG

The highest Round 20 score at the MCG is 32.24 (216) by Hawthorn against Essendon 8.8 (56) in 1992. This is the overall record Round 20 score. The most goals by an individual at the MCG in Round 20 is 12. This record is shared by two players. Gary Ablett kicked a dozen for Geelong against Richmond in 1990. The Cats scored 24.14 (158) and won by 64 points. Jason Dunstall also kicked 12 goals for Hawthorn against Essendon in 1992. The overall Round 20 record is 13 shared by Doug Wade for Geelong against North Melbourne at Kardinia Park in 1971 when Geelong kicked 24.7 (151) and won by 75 points, and Peter Daicos for Collingwood against Brisbane at Carrara in 1991. Collingwood kicked 26.16 (172) and won by 101 points. The highest score in a quarter is 10.3 (63) by Melbourne in the third quarter against North Melbourne in 1991. Melbourne finished with 20.20 (140) to win by 52 points. The overall Round 20 record is 11.6 (72) by Collingwood in the third quarter against Essendon at Victoria Park in 1970. Collingwood kicked 24.16 (160) to win by 81 points. The highest Round 20 attendance at the MCG was recorded at a night game on Friday August 5, 1994 when 75,565 saw Collingwood defeat Essendon by 28 points.

Statistics for Richmond v Melbourne

Richmond v Melbourne by venue

	Won By Richmond	Won By Melbourne	Draw
Docklands	1	1	0
MCG	74	65	1
Motordrome	1	0	0
Punt Road	32	18	1
Waverley Park	0	1	0
	108	85	2

Highest Score

Richmond	30.16 (196)	Rd 2	1942	PR
Melbourne	26.19 (175)	Rd 21	1993	MCG

Lowest Score

Richmond	1.6 (12)	Rd 10	1908	MCG
Melbourne	4.10 (34)	Rd 11	1910	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 6, 2023, MCG

	Melbourne	Richmond
Quarter time	2.2	5.2
Half time	6.2	8.4
Three-quarter time	10.5	10.7
Full time	15.6 (96)	11.12 (78)

Greatest Winning Margin

Richmond	93 points	Rd 9	1980	MCG
Melbourne	121 points	Rd 21	1993	MCG

DID YOU KNOW?

- When the MCG was used to accommodate service personnel during the Second World War, Melbourne played their home games at the Punt Road Oval. The move commenced at the start of the 1942 season and Melbourne did not return to playing home games at the MCG until Round 17, 1946.
- Due to the construction of a new stand at the MCG in preparation for the 1956 Olympic Games, the MCG was not available for Melbourne home games until Round 5 of the 1956 season. Melbourne's Round 1 clash with Richmond, which was originally a Melbourne home game, was therefore played at the Punt Road Oval and Melbourne hosted the Tigers in Round 12 at the MCG. Melbourne won both these games. The Round 4 Melbourne home game against Fitzroy was played at Punt Road.
- Richmond played their first home game at the MCG as co-tenant with Melbourne in Round 1, 1965. The game was against Melbourne and the Demons won a close encounter by six points – 7.5 (47) to 6.5 (41).
- The Round 21 game played at Waverley Park in 1990, and the Round 10, 2005, and Round 12, 2008, matches played at Docklands are the only Melbourne versus Richmond games not played at the MCG since Richmond became an MCG tenant in 1965. Melbourne won the game at Waverley and the 2005 game at Docklands, while the Tigers won the 2008 game at Docklands.
- Prior to this year, the most recent season in which the Tigers and Demons were drawn to play each other twice was 2019. Richmond won both games – by 43 points in the Round 6 ANZAC Eve game before 72,704 fans and by 33 points in Round 20 before 37,254.

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>

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.