MCC Library Fact Sheet
September 9, 2023

AFL 2023 2nd Elimination Final
St Kilda v
Greater Western Sydney

**Welcome to the first match between
St Kilda and Greater Western Sydney at the Melbourne Cricket Ground**

St Kilda in the Finals

St Kilda have played in a total of 54 finals, winning 22 and losing 31, with one draw. Of these, eight were grand finals of which they have won one, lost six and drawn one. Three players hold the record for the most finals played with 17 each, Nick Dal Santo, Robert Harvey and Nick Riewoldt. Nick Riewoldt also holds the record for the most finals goals with 41. Allan Jeans is their only premiership coach with their 1966 victory. Their only Norm Smith Medallist is Lenny Hayes in their 2010 drawn grand final. Their highest finals score is 24.14 (158) against Essendon in a 1973 elimination final. Their lowest finals score is 3.8 (26) against Carlton in a 1908 semi final. Their highest grand final score is 13.16 (94) when they were defeated by Adelaide in 1997. Their lowest grand final score is 5.13 (43) when they were defeated by Fitzroy in 1913. The record for the most goals in a final is held by Tony Lockett who kicked nine against Geelong in a 1991 elimination final.

Greater Western Sydney in the Finals

Greater Western Sydney have played in a total of 13 finals with seven wins and six losses. One of these was the 2019 grand final where they went down to Richmond by 89 points. This has been their only grand final appearance. Nick Haynes and Jacob Hopper hold the record for the most finals appearances with 13 each. Toby Greene holds the record for the most finals goals with 20. The club's highest score in a final is 19.11 (125) against the West Coast Eagles in the 2017 first semi final. Their lowest finals score is 3.7 (25) against Richmond in the 2019 grand final. Steve Johnson holds their record for the most goals in a final with six against the West Coast Eagles in 2017.

Their Only Draw

Round 5, 2018, the ANZAC Round, saw these two sides meet at Docklands. GWS was sitting on top of the ladder after Round 4 and St Kilda 16th. The score difference between the two sides at the end of the first three quarters did not reach double figures, with GWS ahead by three points at the end of the first quarter, St Kilda by five points at half-time and GWS by nine points at the last break. With St Kilda kicking four goals one behind to GWS's two goals four behinds in the last quarter, the final siren sounded with both sides sitting on 73 points. Inaccurate kicking clearly played a part in GWS not being able to overcome the much lower placed Saints. **St Kilda 10.13 (73) drew with GWS 9.19 (73)**. Paddy McCartin was the Saints' only multiple goalscorer with three, while Jeremy Cameron, Brett Deledio and Ryan Griffen each kicked two for GWS.

Played For Both

Josh Bruce was born in the ACT and played junior football for the Eastlake Football Club. He was drafted by GWS as an ACT zone selection to play in their TAC Cup in 2010 and continued to play for them in 2011 while the club was competing in the NEAFL. He made his AFL debut for the Giants in Round 5, 2012, against the Western Bulldogs. After playing three senior games for GWS in 2012 and 11 in 2013, mainly in defence, Bruce was traded to St Kilda. From 2014 to 2019 he played 99 games for the Saints, kicking 168 goals. Toward the end of the 2014 season he was tried up forward and in 2015 he was St Kilda's leading goalkicker with 50. He kicked 38 goals in 2016 and 36 in 2017. At the conclusion of the 2019 season he was traded to the Western Bulldogs and played 50 games for them from 2020 to 2023, kicking 63 goals. Bruce announced his retirement on August 22, 2023, effective immediately.

Over To You

1. Who captained St Kilda to their only AFL/VFL premiership win in 1966?
2. In which season did GWS record their first AFL win over St Kilda?
3. Who am I? I joined St Kilda in 2017 after playing 17 games for GWS in 2015 and 2016.
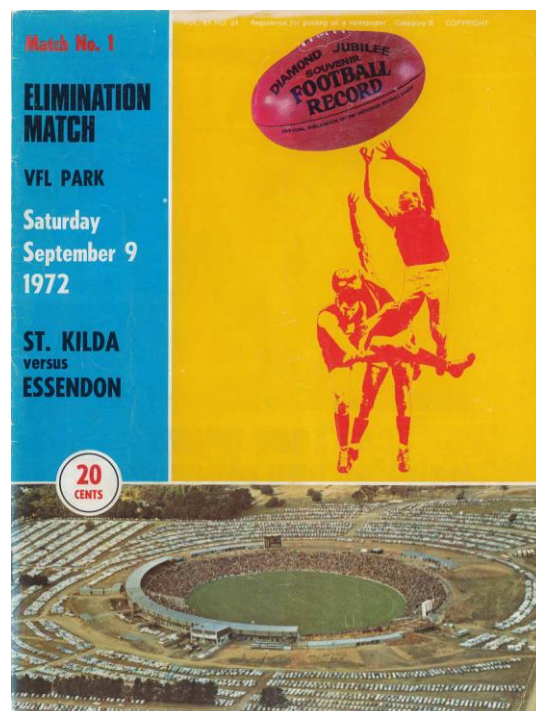
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Elimination Finals Explained

The elimination final was first played in 1972 following the introduction of the McIntyre final five system. Elimination finals were played from 1972 to 1993 inclusive and were re-introduced in 2000. Between 1972 and 1990 the elimination final was played between the teams which finished fourth and fifth on the ladder. The loser was eliminated and the winner proceeded to the first semi final.

In 1991, when the admission of Adelaide created a 15-team competition, the McIntyre final six system was introduced. Under this system two elimination finals were played with the fifth-placed side playing sixth and the third-placed playing fourth. The losing teams were eliminated. This arrangement was amended for the next two seasons, when fourth played fifth and third played sixth. Elimination finals were not played from 1994 to 1999.

With the introduction of the McIntyre final eight system in 1994, four qualifying finals were played in the first week when first played eighth, second played seventh, third played sixth and fourth played fifth. Under this system, the two lowest-placed losing teams were eliminated. The elimination final was re-introduced in 2000 as part of the revised final eight system. Under the current scheme, the fifth-placed team plays eighth and sixth-placed plays seventh. The losers are eliminated and winners play the losers of the qualifying finals in the semi finals.

ELIMINATION FINALS SCORES

Year	Rnd	Venue	Team 1	Score 1	Team 2	Score 2	Crowd
1972	EF	Waverley	St Kilda	18.16 (124)	Essendon	10.11 (71)	52,499
1973	EF	Waverley	St Kilda	24.14 (158)	Essendon	13.13 (91)	53,405
1974	EF	Waverley	Collingwood	19.10 (124)	Footscray	6.19 (55)	57,912
1975	EF	Waverley	Richmond	11.11 (77)	Collingwood	10.13 (73)	65,512
1976	EF	Waverley	Geelong	14.18 (102)	Footscray	14.11 (95)	50,686
1977	EF	Waverley	Richmond	13.10 (88)	South Melbourne	7.12 (54)	63,663
1978	EF	Waverley	Carlton	15.15 (105)	Geelong	9.18 (72)	57,505
1979	EF	Waverley	Fitzroy	17.22 (124)	Essendon	5.13 (43)	49,470
1980	EF	MCG	Collingwood	14.20 (104)	North Melbourne	14.12 (96)	83,033
1981	EF	Waverley	Fitzroy	16.13 (109)	Essendon	13.16 (94)	58,598
1982	EF	Waverley	North Melbourne	19.14 (128)	Essendon	16.19 (115)	50,537
1983	EF	Waverley	Essendon	17.12 (114)	Carlton	12.9 (81)	65,881
1984	EF	MCG	Collingwood	23.15 (153)	Fitzroy	15.17 (107)	73,994
1985	EF	Waverley	North Melb	20.6 (126)	Carlton	16.11 (107)	49,126
1986	EF	Waverley	Fitzroy	8.10 (58)	Essendon	8.9 (57)	59,420
1987	EF	MCG	Melbourne	22.26 (158)	North Melbourne	5.10 (40)	72,628
1988	EF	Waverley	Melbourne	11.7 (73)	West Coast	10.11 (71)	43,438
1989	EF	Waverley	Melbourne	17.9 (111)	Collingwood	13.10 (88)	63,062
1990	EF	MCG	Melbourne	10.13 (73)	Hawthorn	8.16 (64)	74,954
1991	1EF	Waverley	Melbourne	17.11 (113)	Essendon	11.9 (75)	46,032
1991	2EF	Waverley	Geelong	15.14 (104)	St Kilda	14.13 (97)	63,796
1992	1EF	Subiaco Oval	West Coast	14.16.(100)	Hawthorn	12.15 (87)	40,237
1992	2EF	Waverley	St Kilda	13.13 (91)	Collingwood	12.11 (83)	74,253
1993	1EF	MCG	Adelaide	16.14 (110)	Hawthorn	13.17 (95)	55,287
1993	2EF	Waverley	West Coast	17.18 (120)	North Melbourne	11.3 (69)	29,147

Elimination finals were not played from 1994 to 1999.

Year	Rnd	Venue	Team 1	Score 1	Team 2	Score 2	Crowd
2000	1EF	Docklands	Hawthorn	14.8 (92)	Geelong	12.11 (83)	44,709
2000	2EF	Gabba	Brisbane Lions	15.20 (110)	Western Bulldogs	10.16 (76)	25,925
2001	1EF	MCG	Carlton	17.16 (118)	Adelaide	6.14 (50)	53,982
2001	2EF	Docklands	Hawthorn	19.15 (129)	Sydney	11.8 (74)	32,910
2002	1EF	Docklands	Essendon	17.9 (111)	West Coast	11.12 (78)	37,475
2002	2EF	MCG	Melbourne	18.14 (122)	Kangaroos	11.18 (84)	53,967
2003	1EF	Subiaco Oval	Essendon	15.11 (101)	Fremantle	8.9 (57)	42,770
2003	2EF	Football Park	Adelaide	16.17 (113)	West Coast	8.9 (57)	38,641

2004	1EF	MCG	Essendon	15.14 (104)	Melbourne	15.9 (99)	60,903
2004	2EF	Stadium Australia	Sydney	11.9 (75)	West Coast	4.10 (34)	40,282
2005	1EF	Docklands	Port Adelaide	26.8 (164)	Kangaroos	11.11 (77)	25,195
2005	2EF	MCG	Geelong	18.8 (116)	Melbourne	9.7 (61)	65,018
2006	1EF	MCG	Western Bulldogs	18.13 (121)	Collingwood	11.14 (80)	84,284
2006	2EF	MCG	Melbourne	13.12 (90)	St Kilda	10.12 (72)	67,528
2007	1EF	Docklands	Hawthorn	15.15 (105)	Adelaide	15.12 (102)	36,534
2007	2EF	MCG	Collingwood	18.17 (125)	Sydney	13.9 (87)	64,645
2008	1EF	Football Park	Collingwood	19.11 (125)	Adelaide	14.10 (94)	37,685
2008	2EF	Stadium Australia	Sydney	17.8 (110)	Kangaroos	11.9 (75)	19,127
2009	1EF	Football Park	Adelaide	26.10 (166)	Essendon	10.10 (70)	50,393
2009	2EF	Gabba	Brisbane	16.15 (111)	Carlton	15.14 (104)	32,702
2010	1EF	Stadium Australia	Sydney	14.15 (99)	Carlton	13.16 (94)	41,596
2010	2EF	Subiaco Oval	Fremantle	14.10 (94)	Hawthorn	8.16 (64)	42,719
2011	1EF	MCG	Carlton	21.23 (149)	Essendon	13.9 (87)	90,370
2011	2EF	Docklands	Sydney	12.10 (82)	St Kilda	8.9 (57)	39,205
2012	1EF	Subiaco Oval	West Coast	24.18 (162)	North Melbourne	9.12 (66)	41,790
2012	2EF	MCG	Fremantle	14.12 (96)	Geelong	11.14 (80)	44,460
2013	1EF	MCG	Richmond	14.12 (96)	Carlton	18.8 (116)	94,690
2013	2EF	MCG	Collingwood	9.9 (63)	Port Adelaide	12.15 (87)	51,722
2014	1EF	Adelaide Oval	Port Adelaide	20.12 (132)	Richmond	11.9 (75)	50,618
2014	2EF	MCG	North Melbourne	14.9 (93)	Essendon	12.9 (81)	78,561
2015	1EF	MCG	Richmond	14.4 (88)	North Melbourne	15.15 (105)	90,186
2015	2EF	MCG	Western Bulldogs	14.18 (102)	Adelaide	16.13 (109)	60,872
2016	1EF	Adelaide Oval	Adelaide	21.15 (141)	North Melbourne	12.7 (79)	49,007
2016	2EF	Subiaco	West Coast	7.10 (52)	Western Bulldogs	14.15 (99)	42,079
2017	1EF	Adelaide Oval	Port Adelaide	10.16 (76)	West Coast	12.6 (78)	41,172
2017	2EF	SCG	Sydney	19.7 (121)	Essendon	8.8 (56)	46,323
2018	1EF	MCG	Melbourne	10.15 (75)	Geelong	6.10 (46)	91,767
2018	2EF	SCG	Sydney	4.6 (30)	GWS	10.19 (79)	40,350
2019	1EF	Perth Stadium	West Coast	17.14 (116)	Essendon	9.7 (61)	59,216
2019	2EF	Sydney Showground	GWS	16.17 (113)	Western Bulldogs	8.7 (55)	19,218
2020	1EF	Gabba	St Kilda	10.7 (67)	Western Bulldogs	9.10 (64)	10,561
2020	2EF	Perth Stadium	West Coast	11.9 (75)	Collingwood	12.4 (76)	32,865
2021	1EF	York Park	Sydney	10.13 (73)	GWS	11.8 (74)	8,635
2021	2EF	York Park	Western Bulldogs	13.7 (85)	Essendon	4.12 (36)	9,760
2022	1EF	Gabba	Brisbane Lions	16.10 (106)	Richmond	16.8 (104)	35,013
2022	2EF	Perth Stadium	Fremantle	11.7 (73)	Western Bulldogs	8.12 (60)	58,982

A GREAT FULL FORWARD

Coming to St Kilda in 1929 from Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, **Wilbur "Bill" Mohr** was originally played on the half back flank but, when moved to the forward line, he became one of the League's great full forwards. He was the Saints' leading goalkicker from 1929 to 1940 (inclusive) kicking a total of 735 goals in his 195 games for the club, second only in the club's history to Tony Lockett who kicked 898 goals in his 183 games for the Saints. Mohr led the VFL goalkicking in 1936 with 101 goals, becoming the first Saint to achieve the century. He kicked ten goals in a match on three occasions, captained the club in 1937, won their best and fairest award in 1932 and 1936 and represented Victoria 18 times. Mohr was one of the first players inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame in 1996. In 2001 he was named on the half forward flank in St Kilda's Team of the Century. The *Encyclopedia of AFL Footballers* says of Mohr:

> "He could boot goals from any sort of angle or from long distances with every variety of the punt kick and with the frequent magnificent drop kick. Mohr had the rare skill of being able to kick a goal from the seemingly impossible situation."

Wilbur "Bill" Mohr
Kindly donated to the Australian Gallery of
Sport and Olympic Museum by Mavis Mohr.
⌈Australian Sports Museum 1992.2680.2⌉

Elimination Finals at the MCG (1980-2018)

The first eight elimination finals from 1972 to 1979 were held at VFL Park, Waverley. In 1980 Richmond was to play in the qualifying final, but as a MCG tenant the Tigers were forced under then League rules to play this match at the neutral VFL Park. As both qualifying and elimination finals were to be played at the same time, the 1980 elimination final was scheduled for the MCG. An elimination final has not been played at the MCG since 2018 when Melbourne defeated Geelong before 91,767 fans. The highest score in an elimination final at the MCG is 158 points recorded by Carlton 22.26 (158) against North Melbourne 5.10 (40) in 1987. The highest score overall was 26.10 (166) by Adelaide against Essendon in the first elimination final at Football Park in 2009. The lowest score at the MCG is 5.10 (40) by North Melbourne in 1987 and Melbourne's winning margin of 118 points that year is the largest recorded for an elimination final. The lowest score overall is Sydney's 4.6 (30) against Greater Western Sydney at the SCG in 2018. The highest score in a quarter at the MCG is 10.7 (67) by Collingwood in the last quarter against Fitzroy in 1984. Collingwood kicked 23.15 (153) to defeat Fitzroy by 46 points after leading by only four points at three-quarter time. This is also the overall elimination final record. The most goals in an elimination final at the MCG is six, shared by Jason Dunstall for Hawthorn against Adelaide in 1993 and Mark Williams for Collingwood against Fitzroy in 1984. The overall record is nine by Tony Lockett for St Kilda against Geelong at Waverley Park in 1991 but St Kilda lost by seven points. The highest elimination final attendance was recorded on Sunday September 8, 2013 when 94,690 saw Carlton defeat Richmond by 20 points at the MCG.

Statistics for St Kilda v Greater Western Sydney

St Kilda v Greater Western Sydney by venue

	Won by St Kilda	Won by GWS	Drawn
Docklands	3	2	1
Gabba	1	0	0
Manuka Oval	2	1	0
Syd. Showground	2	2	0
	8	5	1

Greatest Winning Margin

St Kilda	128 points	Rd 22	2012	Docklands
GWS	47 points	Rd 5	2016	Docklands

Highest Score

St Kilda	25.13 (163)	Rd 22	2012	Docklands
GWS	19.12 (126)	Rd 5	2016	Docklands

Lowest Score

GWS	3.12 (30)	Rd 18	2020	Gabba
St Kilda	6.13 (49)	Rd 15	2015	SS

Last Time They Met –
Round 10, 2023, Sydney Showground

	GWS	St Kilda
Quarter time	4.1	3.3
Half time	8.3	8.3
Three-quarter time	11.4	11.7
Full time	12.8 (80)	13.14 (92)

Greater Western Sydney – Their First Final

Having entered the AFL competition in 2012, the Giants were in just their fifth season when the club played in its first finals series in 2016. GWS had finished fourth that year, and met the minor premiers, the Sydney Swans, in the first qualifying final. On September 10, 2016, the Giants faced Sydney at Stadium Australia, and despite the game being played in the western Sydney suburb of Homebush, the crowd of 60,222 was very pro-Swans. The match was tight throughout the first half, and only two points separated the teams at half time, with the Giants 5.9 (39) to the Swans 5.7 (37). However, in the third quarter the Giants kicked four goals to Swans one to go into the three-quarter time break 21 points up. Greater Western Sydney would extend their lead in the final quarter to win 12.19 (91) to 7.13 (55). The 36-point margin was Sydney's heaviest loss for the season. Jeremy Cameron booted four goals for the Giants, while many also regarded Stephen Coniglio, Tom Scully, Lachlan Whitfield and Toby Greene, as the best players for GWS that evening. Two weeks later, Greater Western Sydney, having made the first preliminary final, would be defeated by the Western Bulldogs by six points in a classic match at the Sydney Showground. Meanwhile, Sydney, having defeated Adelaide in a semi final and then Geelong in the second preliminary final, lost to the Bulldogs in the 2016 AFL grand final.

Over To You Answers

Q1 Darrel Baldock.
Q2 2015, Round 1 at Docklands – Greater Western Sydney 12.15 (87) defeated St Kilda 11.12 (78).
Q3 Jack Steele

Did You Know?

The largest attendance for a match between St Kilda and Greater Western Sydney is 21,160. This was for their May 5, 2017, Round 7 clash at Docklands Stadium. Only one other attendance for a match between the two clubs has been greater than 20,000. This was also at the Docklands when on April 24, 2016, 21,052 attended.