



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 17 RICHMOND V SYDNEY

LIBRARY FACT SHEET JULY 6, 2023

A TIGER GREAT - VIC THORP

One of seven "Immortals" in the Richmond Hall of Fame, Vic Thorp played 263 games for the Tigers between 1910 and 1925, was a member of the 1920 and 1921 premiership teams, was voted Richmond's most popular player by patrons of Richmond's Globe and National Theatres in 1924, represented Victoria 14 times and was named at full back in the club's Team of the Century. When he died in 1941 at the age of 50, the following obituary appeared in the *Sporting Globe*:

"Victor Thorp, who passed on this week, was a man honoured by sportsmen of his day and afterwards. To the men who played Australian football with him he was scrupulously fair and honest and among the greatest of the great. To those who came afterwards he stood out in football history as the greatest goalkeeper we have produced. Thorp was Richmond to the core. He attended the Yarra Park school and played all his football either with Beverley (later Richmond seconds), or Richmond. He came to the senior eighteen when fortunes of the senior club eighteen were mostly at the receiving end of football. He played on and joined a big band of good fellows who saw the Tigers not only premiers but perhaps the greatest football force in the State. They have never slipped from that exalted rank. Thorp began as a somewhat indifferent forward and never really found himself in football till he was shifted to fullback. With the Richmond goal to guard he was invincible—the greatest fullback among many champions. Today the name of Jack Regan (Collingwood) is the only one bracketed with that of Victor Thorp when fullbacks are discussed. Thorp played 16 years with the Tigers, and then added another five as committeeman-selector—21 years in all. This year he was in fairly regular attendance at Richmond matches. Many times I talked with Thorp, and always found him tolerant of the failures of opponents and full of praise for their success. His many friends will miss his good-natured fellowship."



BILLY SCHMIDT AND 1933

In the early 2000s your Deputy Librarian would spend hours in the Richmond Football Club Museum at Punt Road yarning with its curator Ron Reiffel. One of Ron's many tales related to Billy Schmidt, a one-year Richmond coach who took the Tigers to the 1933 grand final only to be let go. At former players' events Ron would hear the old fellows talk about the 1933 semi final and its ramifications on Billy. Richmond's opponent that afternoon was the star-studded South Melbourne team, however, Richmond seemed to have the best of the Swans for much of the day. At half time the Tigers were 37 points up and seemed well on their way to victory. The apocryphal story, as related by Ron, and as told to him by the old-timers, was that at half time Billy had instructed the players not to exert themselves for the rest of the game in preparation for the grand final. Richmond's Jack Dyer wrote in *Captain Blood*, "we were told not to flatten ourselves or risk injury in the second half. We had the game won and eased off." South had other ideas and in the second half they put on some 72 points to Richmond's two goals five. Thereby, the Swans defeated the Tigers and advanced directly to the grand final – not Richmond! Meanwhile, Richmond faced Geelong in a tight and hard-fought preliminary final the following week. The Tigers defeated the Cats by nine points to qualify, albeit belatedly, for the grand final where they met a well-rested and confident South. On grand final day the Swans led handily throughout the afternoon to demolish the exhausted Tigers by 42 points and claim the 1933 flag. While the rationale as to why Billy Schmidt was not retained as Richmond's coach in 1934 is obscure, some believe that the appointment of Richmond's 1933 captain Percy Bentley as captain-coach in 1934 was intended to ward off approaches to Bentley by other clubs, some of the players who witnessed Schmidt's half time address were left to speculate about the circumstance of his departure.

This Round in History – Round 17 on the MCG

The highest score at the MCG in this round is 28.17 (185) by Richmond against St Kilda 14.18 (102) in 1982. The overall Round 17 record is 36.22 (238) by Fitzroy against Melbourne 6.12 (48) at Waverley Park in 1979. The most goals by an individual is 12 by two players: George Margitich for Melbourne against North Melbourne in 1931 – Melbourne kicked 18.15 (123) to win by 44 points – and Norm Smith for Melbourne against Footscray in 1941 when Melbourne kicked 17.20 (122) to win by 17 points. The overall Round 17 record is 13 by Doug Wade for Geelong against South Melbourne at the Lakeside Oval in 1967. Geelong kicked 21.13 (139) to win by 76 points. The highest score in a quarter is 10.6 (66) in the last quarter by North Melbourne against Melbourne in 1998. North kicked 22.20 (152) to win by 65 points. The overall Round 17 record is 14.2 (86) in the second quarter by Adelaide against Fitzroy at Football Park (Adelaide) in 1996. The Crows kicked 26.10 (166) to win by 99 points. The highest Round 17 attendance at the MCG is 85,831 on July 16, 1994, when Carlton defeated Collingwood by 43 points.

Richmond v South Melbourne/Sydney

Richmond v South Melbourne/Sydney by venue

	Won by Richmond	Won by Swans	Draw
Adelaide Oval	0	1	0
Docklands	4	2	0
Gabba	1	0	0
Junction Oval	1	2	0
Lake Oval	31	26	1
MCG	27	16	0
Princes Park	1	0	0
Punt Road	26	22	0
SCG	11	18	0
Stadium Aust.	1	1	0
Waverley Park	5	2	0
Windy Hill	1	0	0
	109	90	1

Highest Score

Richmond	26.11 (167)	Rd 16	1975	LO
Sydney	31.12 (198)	Rd 18	1987	SCG

Lowest Score

Richmond	3.8 (26)	Rd 15	1909	LO
Sydney	3.8 (26)	Rd 6	2020	Gabba

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	J. Baggott	Rich	Rd 9	1928	PR
12	T. Lockett	Syd	Rd 19	1996	SCG
10	W. Capper	Syd	Rd 8	1986	SCG

Last Time They Met – Round 5, 2023, Adelaide Oval

	Sydney	Richmond
Quarter time	4.4	2.2
Half time	7.5	3.8
Three-quarter time	11.10	10.9
Full time	18.14 (122)	11.12 (78)

Greatest Winning Margin

Richmond	107 points	Rd 16	1975	LO
Sydney	118 points	Rd 7	2006	Dock

DID YOU KNOW?

- These clubs have met in six finals, Richmond winning four of those.
- Jack Dyer and Kevin Bartlett head the list of best and fairest winners at Richmond with five each, followed by Wayne Campbell and Roy Wright, each with four. Bob Skilton won nine best and fairests with the Swans, followed by Herbie Matthews and Peter Bedford, each with five.
- Trent Cotchin holds the record for most games as captain at Richmond with 188, followed by Percy Bentley (168) and Jack Dyer (160). Paul Kelly holds the captaincy record at the Swans with 182 games, followed by Bob Skilton (165).
- Jack Titus holds the record at Richmond for most career goals with 970, followed by Matthew Richardson (800) and Kevin Bartlett (778). Bob Pratt heads the Swans' list with 681, followed by Michael O'Loughlin (521).
- Richmond has had seven premiership coaches: Tom Hafey (4), Damien Hardwick (3), Dan Minogue (2), "Checker" Hughes, Percy Bentley, Jack Dyer and Tony Jewell. The Swans have had five premiership coaches: Charlie Ricketts, Bert Howson, Jack Bisset, Paul Roos and John Longmire.

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>

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