



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2022 FIRST QUALIFYING FINAL GEELONG V COLLINGWOOD

LIBRARY FACT SHEET SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME LEGEND GRAHAM "POLLY" FARMER

So far 32 individuals have been given Legend status in the AFL Hall of Fame, but only one of them, Polly Farmer, represented Geelong. In the club's history, *We Are Geelong* (2009), champion rover Bill Goggin commented on Farmer's arrival from Perth: "My brother Matt, who had played in a state game against Western Australia, told me that I wouldn't believe how good this bloke was. My brother was right - I couldn't believe how good he was." Goggin would not be the last to make such an observation.

Bob Davis had been appointed Geelong coach in 1956, the team having slid to the bottom of the ladder following dual premierships in 1951-52 and a grand final appearance in 1953. Following steady improvement, the Cats just missed the finals in 1961. The ever optimistic Davis felt that the only barrier standing in the way of his team winning a premiership was the lack of a top-class ruckman. Believing that Farmer was the best player outside the VFL, Davis decided to move heaven and earth in order to secure his services. Interestingly, Richmond had brought Farmer to Melbourne in 1955, but East Perth refused to clear him so he returned to his home state. By 1961, at the age of 26, Farmer had a remarkable career behind him, having won three Sandover Medals, three Simpson Medals (two as WA's best player in interstate matches and for best afield in the 1959 WAFL grand final, his club's third premiership in four years), a Tassie Medal as the best player at the 1956 interstate carnival, and seven of East Perth's previous eight best and fairest awards.

Following protracted and expensive negotiations with East Perth, Farmer's arrival at Geelong in 1962 caused a sensation, as many as 10,000 spectators attending intra-club practice matches as word spread of this amazing player who was using handball in a way they had never seen before. Farmer explained that "by giving the ball out wide, you create a loose man and give your teammates the chance to run with the ball in the open and boot it long if they wish, rather than have to duck and dive in a pack and just hack the ball forward." Farmer debuted for the Cats in Round 1 against Carlton at Princes Park, but disaster struck in the opening moments of the match when he suffered damage to knee ligaments. As a result he played only five more games that year. Geelong made the preliminary final in 1962, so hopes were high when the 1963 season began. Despite having lost power in his leap because of the knee injury, Farmer had an outstanding year, playing every game and finishing equal second in the Brownlow Medal behind Bob Skilton. The Cats finished second on the ladder by percentage behind Hawthorn and then beat the Hawks by 19 points in the second semi final. The teams met again in the grand final, Geelong leading by 10 points at the final change. With Farmer dominant, his team kicked six goals to nil in the last quarter to take the premiership by 49 points. Farmer went on to play a total of 101 games for the Cats, before returning to WA at the end of the 1967 season at the age of 32. Appointed captain-coach of West Perth, he took that club to premierships in 1969 and 1971. After 356 games in WA and Victoria, he retired as a player at the end of 1971 season.

Champion Western Australian and North Melbourne rover, Barry Cable, whose career overlapped with Farmer's, commented on his unique style of ruck play: "I don't think there's any doubt he was the greatest ruckman to play the game. He led the way in that area - he had a unique style of game. People say he changed the style of ruckmen, but I feel he was the only one who could do what he could do. He had a special game and ruck play all his own, and no one has ever been able to follow it. There was no one who did it before him and no one's ever done it after him."

OVER TO YOU

1. Who am I? I am regarded as one of my club's greatest full-backs. After being recruited from Western Australia I became the most experienced player in League history never to score a goal. I made the last of my 172 appearances in 1986.
2. Who am I? I played 143 games for Collingwood between 1899 and 1908 as an effective defender before becoming the Magpies' treasurer for 43 years. For many years I gave service as a committee member and League delegate. Four of my brothers played at senior level. A grandstand at Victoria Park was named in my honour.

QUALIFYING FINALS SCORES

| | | | | | | | |
|------|-----------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1972 | QF | MCG | Richmond | 25.14 (164) | Collingwood | 18.12 (120) | 91,900 |
| 1973 | QF | MCG | Carlton | 13.13 (91) | Richmond | 10.11 (71) | 86,386 |
| 1974 | QF | MCG | North Melbourne | 15.13 (103) | Hawthorn | 8.17 (65) | 77,519 |
| 1975 | QF | MCG | North Melbourne | 14.12 (96) | Carlton | 12.4 (76) | 74,015 |
| 1976 | QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 14.19 (103) | North Melbourne | 12.11 (83) | 64,148 |
| 1977 | QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 19.11 (125) | North Melbourne | 12.15 (87) | 64,052 |
| 1978 | QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 23.16 (154) | Collingwood | 14.14 (98) | 79,931 |
| 1979 | QF | MCG | North Melbourne | 18.13 (121) | Collingwood | 9.28 (82) | 84,660 |
| 1980 | QF | Waverley | Richmond | 18.8 (116) | Carlton | 10.14 (74) | 59,014 |
| 1981 | QF | MCG | Geelong | 16.16 (112) | Collingwood | 13.20 (98) | 83,899 |
| 1982 | QF | MCG | Carlton | 25.13 (163) | Hawthorn | 16.9 (105) | 70,552 |
| 1983 | QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 19.13 (127) | Fitzroy | 19.9 (123) | 58,288 |
| 1984 | QF | Waverley | Hawthorn | 18.14 (122) | Carlton | 13.14 (92) | 55,947 |
| 1985 | QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 22.23 (155) | Footscray | 8.14 (62) | 58,449 |
| 1986 | QF | MCG | Carlton | 18.12 (120) | Sydney | 15.14 (104) | 66,016 |
| 1987 | QF | Waverley | Hawthorn | 23.18 (156) | Sydney | 8.9 (57) | 47,752 |
| 1988 | QF | MCG | Carlton | 22.13 (145) | Collingwood | 16.11 (107) | 83,032 |
| 1989 | QF | MCG | Essendon | 24.13 (157) | Geelong | 11.15 (81) | 75,861 |
| 1990 | QF | Waverley | Collingwood | 13.12 (90) | West Coast | 13.12 (90) | 57,546 |
| 1990 | QF Replay | Waverley | Collingwood | 19.12 (126) | West Coast | 9.13 (67) | 53,520 |
| 1991 | QF | Subiaco Oval | Hawthorn | 18.16 (124) | West Coast | 15.11 (101) | 44,142 |
| 1992 | QF | MCG | Geelong | 26.16 (172) | Footscray | 17.9 (111) | 68,753 |
| 1993 | QF | MCG | Carlton | 15.10 (100) | Essendon | 14.14 (98) | 79,739 |
| 1994 | 1QF | MCG | Geelong | 15.16 (106) | Footscray | 15.11 (101) | 61,182 |
| 1994 | 2QF | Waverley | North Melbourne | 15.24 (114) | Hawthorn | 13.13 (91) | 38,223 |
| 1994 | 3QF | MCG | Melbourne | 18.15 (123) | Carlton | 14.12 (96) | 56,111 |
| 1994 | 4QF | WACA | West Coast | 11.16 (82) | Collingwood | 12.8 (80) | 31,824 |
| 1995 | 1QF | Waverley | Essendon | 11.8 (74) | West Coast | 8.7 (55) | 36,102 |
| 1995 | 2QF | MCG | North Melbourne | 17.12 (114) | Richmond | 12.12 (84) | 68,226 |
| 1995 | 3QF | MCG | Geelong | 24.11 (155) | Footscray | 10.13 (73) | 59,889 |
| 1995 | 4QF | MCG | Carlton | 13.12 (90) | Brisbane Bears | 12.5 (77) | 52,092 |
| 1996 | 1QF | Subiaco Oval | West Coast | 18.17 (125) | Carlton | 10.10 (70) | 41,501 |
| 1996 | 2QF | Gabba | Brisbane Bears | 15.11 (101) | Essendon | 15.10 (100) | 21,964 |
| 1996 | 3QF | MCG | North Melbourne | 19.17 (131) | Geelong | 9.17 (71) | 69,323 |
| 1996 | 4QF | SCG | Sydney | 13.12 (90) | Hawthorn | 12.12 (84) | 37,010 |
| 1997 | 1QF | Football Park | Adelaide | 14.15 (99) | West Coast | 9.12 (66) | 43,831 |
| 1997 | 2QF | MCG | Western Bulldogs | 18.11 (119) | Sydney | 12.12 (84) | 62,432 |
| 1997 | 3QF | MCG | North Melbourne | 11.13 (79) | Geelong | 9.7 (61) | 55,561 |
| 1997 | 4QF | Waverley | St Kilda | 20.15 (135) | Brisbane Lions | 13.11 (89) | 50,035 |
| 1998 | 1QF | MCG | Melbourne | 17.13 (115) | Adelaide | 9.13 (67) | 60,817 |
| 1998 | 2QF | SCG | Sydney | 12.17 (89) | St Kilda | 13.9 (87) | 36,056 |
| 1998 | 3QF | MCG | Western Bulldogs | 18.13 (121) | West Coast | 7.9 (51) | 43,025 |
| 1998 | 4QF | MCG | North Melbourne | 11.16 (82) | Essendon | 8.12 (60) | 71,154 |
| 1999 | 1QF | MCG | West Coast | 9.11 (65) | Western Bulldogs | 8.12 (60) | 41,227 |
| 1999 | 2QF | Gabba | Brisbane Lions | 20.18 (138) | Carlton | 8.17 (65) | 26,112 |
| 1999 | 3QF | MCG | Kangaroos | 15.10 (100) | Port Adelaide | 8.8 (56) | 31,476 |
| 1999 | 4QF | MCG | Essendon | 18.15 (123) | Sydney | 7.12 (54) | 57,687 |
| 2000 | 1QF | MCG | Essendon | 31.12 (198) | Kangaroos | 11.7 (73) | 68,443 |
| 2000 | 2QF | MCG | Melbourne | 15.6 (96) | Carlton | 12.15 (87) | 75,570 |
| 2001 | 1QF | MCG | Essendon | 17.11 (113) | Richmond | 5.13 (43) | 78,253 |
| 2001 | 2QF | Gabba | Brisbane Lions | 12.16 (88) | Port Adelaide | 8.8 (56) | 32,380 |
| 2002 | 1QF | Football Park | Collingwood | 16.12 (108) | Port Adelaide | 14.11 (95) | 33,131 |
| 2002 | 2QF | Gabba | Brisbane Lions | 17.13 (115) | Adelaide | 5.14 (44) | 31,854 |
| 2003 | 1QF | Football Park | Sydney | 15.10 (100) | Port Adelaide | 13.10 (88) | 33,968 |
| 2003 | 2QF | MCG | Collingwood | 9.12 (66) | Brisbane Lions | 7.9 (51) | 66,092 |
| 2004 | 1QF | Football Park | Port Adelaide | 18.9 (117) | Geelong | 9.8 (62) | 39,250 |
| 2004 | 2QF | Gabba | Brisbane Lions | 23.11 (149) | St Kilda | 10.9 (69) | 33,582 |
| 2005 | 1QF | Football Park | St Kilda | 10.5 (65) | Adelaide | 8.9 (57) | 48,768 |
| 2005 | 2QF | Subiaco Oval | West Coast | 10.9 (69) | Sydney | 10.5 (65) | 43,302 |
| 2006 | 1QF | Subiaco Oval | Sydney | 13.7 (85) | West Coast | 12.12 (84) | 43,116 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|--------|
| 2006 | 2QF | Football Park | Adelaide | 10.16 (76) | Fremantle | 7.4 (46) | 42,208 |
| 2007 | 1QF | MCG | Geelong | 23.18 (156) | Kangaroos | 8.2 (50) | 77,630 |
| 2007 | 2QF | Football Park | Port Adelaide | 9.14 (68) | West Coast | 9.11 (65) | 37,750 |
| 2008 | 1QF | MCG | Geelong | 17.17 (119) | St Kilda | 8.13 (61) | 71,653 |
| 2008 | 2QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 18.19 (127) | Western Bulldogs | 11.10 (76) | 76,703 |
| 2009 | 1QF | MCG | St Kilda | 12.8 (80) | Collingwood | 7.10 (52) | 84,213 |
| 2009 | 2QF | MCG | Geelong | 14.12 (96) | Western Bulldogs | 12.10 (82) | 74,007 |
| 2010 | 1QF | MCG | Collingwood | 17.22 (124) | Western Bulldogs | 8.14 (62) | 66,672 |
| 2010 | 2QF | MCG | St Kilda | 12.11 (83) | Geelong | 11.13 (79) | 63,785 |
| 2011 | 1QF | MCG | Collingwood | 12.10 (82) | West Coast | 9.8 (62) | 67,502 |
| 2011 | 2QF | MCG | Geelong | 14.14 (98) | Hawthorn | 9.13 (67) | 73,601 |
| 2012 | 1QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 20.15 (135) | Collingwood | 15.7 (97) | 84,625 |
| 2012 | 2QF | Football Park | Sydney | 11.5 (71) | Adelaide | 5.12 (42) | 44,849 |
| 2013 | 1QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 15.15 (105) | Sydney | 7.9 (51) | 59,615 |
| 2013 | 2QF | Kardinia Park | Geelong | 9.18 (72) | Fremantle | 12.15 (87) | 32,458 |
| 2014 | 1QF | Stadium Australia | Sydney | 12.15 (93) | Fremantle | 10.9 (69) | 35,998 |
| 2014 | 2QF | MCG | Hawthorn | 15.14 (104) | Geelong | 10.8 (68) | 74,757 |
| 2015 | 1QF | Subiaco Oval | Fremantle | 10.9 (69) | Sydney | 7.18(60) | 40,071 |
| 2015 | 2QF | Subiaco Oval | West Coast | 14.12 (96) | Hawthorn | 9.10 (64) | 42,663 |
| 2016 | 1QF | Stadium Australia | Sydney | 7.13 (55) | Greater Western Sydney | 12.19 (91) | 60,222 |
| 2016 | 2QF | MCG | Geelong | 12.13 (85) | Hawthorn | 12.11 (83) | 87,533 |
| 2017 | 1QF | Adelaide Oval | Adelaide | 12.12 (84) | Greater Western Sydney | 6.12 (48) | 52,805 |
| 2017 | 2QF | MCG | Geelong | 5.10 (40) | Richmond | 13.13 (91) | 95,028 |
| 2018 | 1QF | MCG | Richmond | 13.17 (95) | Hawthorn | 9.10 (64) | 91,446 |
| 2018 | 2QF | Perth Stadium | West Coast | 12.14 (86) | Collingwood | 10.10 (70) | 59,585 |
| 2019 | 1QF | MCG | Geelong | 7.9 (51) | Collingwood | 9.7 (61) | 93,436 |
| 2019 | 2QF | Gabba | Brisbane Lions | 8.17 (65) | Richmond | 16.4 (112) | 37,478 |
| 2020 | 1QF | Adelaide Oval | Port Adelaide | 9.4 (58) | Geelong | 5.12 (42) | 22,755 |
| 2020 | 2QF | Gabba | Brisbane Lions | 10.9 (69) | Richmond | 8.6 (54) | 22,104 |
| 2021 | 1QF | Adelaide Oval | Port Adelaide | 12.14 (86) | Geelong | 5.13 (43) | 19,712 |
| 2021 | 2QF | Adelaide Oval | Melbourne | 13.15 (93) | Brisbane Lions | 9.6 (60) | 13,784 |

PAST QUALIFYING FINALS AT THE MCG (1972-2019)

The inaugural qualifying final was played at the MCG in 1972. Richmond 25.14 (164) defeated Collingwood 18.12 (120) before a crowd of 91,900. The largest qualifying final attendance was 95,028, who saw the 2017 second qualifying final between Geelong and Richmond.

The highest score in a qualifying final is 198 points recorded by Essendon 31.12 (198) against the Kangaroos 11.7 (73) in 2000 at the MCG. The 125-point margin is also the greatest in a qualifying final. The overall highest score for a quarter in a qualifying final is 11.4 (70) by Carlton against Hawthorn in 1982 at the MCG. The lowest score in a qualifying final at the MCG is 5.13 (43) by Richmond against Essendon in the 2001 first qualifying final. The lowest at all venues is 5.12 (42) by Geelong against Port Adelaide in the 2020 first qualifying final at the Adelaide Oval.

The best bag of goals in a qualifying final at the MCG is nine by Geelong's Billy Brownless against Footscray in 1992. Two years later, at the same venue, Brownless kicked a dramatic goal after the final siren to defeat Footscray by five points in the 1994 first qualifying final. Hawthorn's Michael Moncrieff (1978), Fitzroy's Bernie Quinlan (1983) and another Hawk, Lance "Buddy" Franklin (2008) have each kicked eight goals in a qualifying final at the MCG. Carlton's Warren Ralph (1984) kicked eight at Waverley. Ralph and Quinlan achieved their feat in losing teams.

QUALIFYING FINALS EXPLAINED

The qualifying final was first played in 1972 following the introduction of the McIntyre final five system. One qualifying final was played each year from 1972 to 1993. Between 1972 and 1990 the qualifying final was played between teams that finished second and third on the ladder. The winner met the minor premier in the second semi final for a place in the grand final. The loser played the winner of the elimination final in the first semi final. In 1991, following the admission of Adelaide which created a 15-team competition, the McIntyre final six was introduced. Under this system the first and second-placed teams played in the qualifying final, while the other four finalists faced elimination finals. The winner of the qualifying final progressed to the preliminary final and the loser played in a semi final.

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.

In 2000, as part of the revised final eight system, two qualifying finals were played. Under the current scheme, the first-placed team plays fourth in the first qualifying final and the second-placed team plays third in the second qualifying final. The winners earn a week's break and progress to one of two preliminary finals. The losers must play the winners of the elimination finals in the semi finals.

Statistics for Geelong v Collingwood

Geelong v Collingwood by venue

| | Won by Geelong | Won by Collingwood | Drawn |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Corio Oval | 21 | 22 | 1 |
| Docklands | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| East Melb. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Gabba | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kardinia Park | 19 | 22 | 0 |
| MCG | 29 | 23 | 0 |
| Perth Stadium | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Victoria Park | 25 | 57 | 0 |
| Waverley | 5 | 6 | 0 |
| | 103 | 134 | 1 |

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

| | | | | | |
|----|------------|------|------|------|-----|
| 12 | P. McKenna | Coll | Rd 9 | 1972 | VP |
| 11 | G. Goninon | Geel | SF 2 | 1951 | MCG |
| 11 | R. Todd | Coll | PF | 1938 | MCG |

Highest Score

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------|------|-------|
| Geelong | 23.18 (156) | Rd 13 | 1940 | Corio |
| Collingwood | 28.16 (184) | Rd 9 | 1972 | VP |

Lowest Score

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------|------|-------|
| Geelong | 3.2 (20) | Rd 13 | 1902 | VP |
| Collingwood | 1.4 (10) | Rd 10 | 1897 | Corio |

Greatest Winning Margin

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------|------|-----|
| Geelong | 96 points | Rd 24 | 2011 | MCG |
| Collingwood | 102 points | Rd 8 | 2006 | MCG |

Last Time They Met – Round 3, 2022, MCG

| | Collingwood | Geelong |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| Quarter time | 3.7 | 2.3 |
| Half time | 4.11 | 6.4 |
| Three-quarter time | 13.12 | 9.6 |
| Full time | 13.13 (91) | 16.8 (104) |

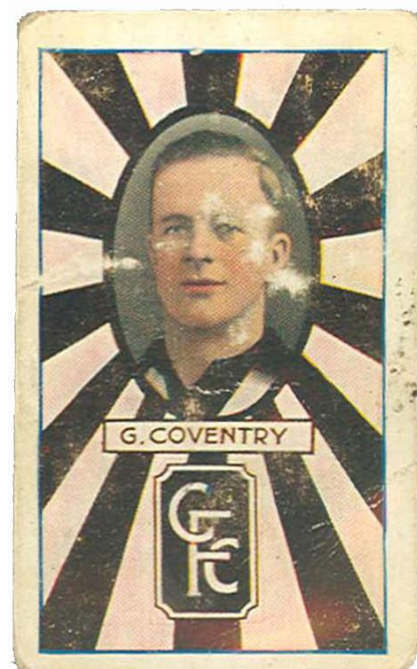
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME LEGEND GORDON "NUTS" COVENTRY

Gordon "Nuts" Coventry is accorded "Legend" status in the Australian Football Hall of Fame. He was the first player to play 300 VFL games, the first to kick 100 goals in a VFL season, the only player ever to head the League's goal-kicking list in five consecutive seasons, and the first player to kick 1000 VFL goals, with his career total of 1299 VFL goals serving as a VFL/AFL competition record for over 60 seasons.

Brought up with his nine brothers and sisters in Diamond Creek, Gordon played his early football for Diamond Creek in the Heidelberg District Football League and quickly established himself as a champion centre half-forward. He was invited to train at Collingwood in 1920 and played his first senior game at the age of 18 against St Kilda later that year. He then played at centre-half forward in the Collingwood team that lost the 1920 grand final to Richmond.

He continued to play at centre-half forward or on the half-forward flank during the 1921 and 1922 seasons but with the retirement of Dick Lee he moved to full forward in 1923. He was leading goal-kicker for Collingwood 16 times from 1922 to 1937 and the League's leading goal-kicker in 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1933. He was a member of five Collingwood premierships (1927, 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1935) and winner of the Copeland Trophy as the best and fairest player at Collingwood in 1933. In total he played 306 games for the Magpies from 1920 to 1937, including 31 finals matches. He missed Collingwood's 1936 grand final victory due to suspension. He was made a Life Member of the Collingwood Football Club in 1932. After leaving Collingwood, he coached Collegians in the VFA for a number of years.

Coventry's brother Syd was also a legend at Collingwood, playing 227 games from 1922 to 1934, being captain of four premierships sides and winning the Brownlow Medal in 1927. Gordon Coventry was named at full-forward in Collingwood's Team of the Century in 1998 (with Syd as captain in the back pocket) and was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1999. Gordon died in 1968 at his property in Diamond Creek.



OVER TO YOU ANSWERS: Q1 Gary Malarkey (Geelong). **Q2** Bob Rush.

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