



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

AUGUST 10, 2024

AFL 2024 ROUND 22

MELBOURNE V PORT ADELAIDE

PLAYED FOR BOTH CLUBS

Eleven players have played for both Melbourne and Port Adelaide in the AFL since Port Adelaide joined the competition in 1997. Some of these are:

Ben Newton

A midfielder from South Fremantle, Newton was drafted by Port Adelaide in 2010 but didn't make his AFL debut until Round 7, 2014, against Greater Western Sydney. He played four games for Port in 2014 and left at the end of that season. He was picked up by Melbourne as a delisted free agent and played 13 games and kicked 12 goals for the Demons in 2015 and 2016, before being delisted.

Byron Pickett

A talented utility player, who won the Rising Star Award in 1998 and All Australian selection in 1999, Pickett represented three AFL clubs, playing 204 games and kicking 177 goals. He started his AFL career at North Melbourne in 1997 where he played 120 games and booted 81 goals for the Kangaroos up until the end of 2002. He was a member of North's 1999 premiership side. He joined Port Adelaide in 2003 and played 55 games and scored 80 goals with them over three seasons. He enjoyed further premiership success when he was a member of Port's 2004 flag-winning team. He was also awarded the Norm Smith Medal for his best on ground performance in the 2004 grand final. He was traded to Melbourne after the 2005 season and played 29 games (16 goals) for the Demons in 2006 and 2007. Pickett retired from AFL football after Melbourne's Round 22 game against Carlton in 2007.

CHAMPIONS OF AUSTRALIA?

In the late 1950s Melbourne and Port Adelaide were dominant clubs in their states. Melbourne won Victorian premierships in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959 and 1960, and were runners-up in 1954 and 1958. Port Adelaide were the South Australian premiers in 1951, won six grand finals in a row from 1954 to 1959, and was SA's runner-up in 1953. During this period Melbourne and Port Adelaide played three post-season matches while they were the premiers of their respective states.

1955 – On October 5 Melbourne 9.11 (65) defeated Port Adelaide 9.10 (64) at night before a capacity crowd of 18,000 at Norwood Oval, Adelaide. However, another 4,000 people entered the venue after the locked gates collapsed under their weight. The scores were tied with 15 seconds remaining before Melbourne's Frank "Bluey" Adams scored the deciding behind.

1956 – On October 10 Melbourne 13.6 (84) defeated Port Adelaide 11.8 (74) in another night match played before a capacity crowd of 18,000 at Norwood Oval, Adelaide.

1959 – On October 7 Melbourne 20.17 (137) defeated Port Adelaide 14.11 (92) in a night match played before a packed crowd of 18,000 at Norwood Oval, Adelaide. This match was played four days after the South Australian grand final. The Demons' rover Frank "Bluey" Adams kicked eight goals and was widely regarded as the best player on the ground.

Jack Watts

After strong performances in the 2008 AFL Under 18 Championships, Watts was selected by Melbourne as the number one pick in the 2008 AFL Draft. He made his AFL debut for the Demons in their 2009 Queen's Birthday holiday clash with Collingwood but many felt that he had been unfairly thrust into senior football when he was not quite ready. Despite never really living up to the hype that went hand in hand with his status as a number one draft pick, Watts maintained a place in Melbourne's senior team throughout most of the period 2010 to 2017, playing 152 games and kicking 143 goals. He featured in the top ten in Melbourne's best and fairest count three times and was placed fifth in 2016, a year in which he kicked a career-high 38 goals for the season. Watts was traded to Port Adelaide after the 2017 season and played 21 games (18 goals) in 2018 and 2019. After only two senior games in 2019, he announced his retirement from AFL football in September 2020 on the eve of Port's 2020 finals campaign.

Fabian Francis

A member of Port Adelaide's inaugural AFL team in Round 1, 1997, Francis played 86 games and kicked 44 goals for Port from 1997 to 2001. Originally from Southern Districts in the Northern Territory, he had played one game for Melbourne in 1991 and 22 games and booted 17 goals for Brisbane in 1993 and 1994 prior to this. A fast and talented wingman, he developed into a running half back flanker for Port. After being surprisingly delisted in 2001, a potential salary cap breach prevented an intended move to Fremantle.

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 22 ON THE MCG

The highest Round 22 score at the MCG is 25.20 (170) by Hawthorn against Richmond 13.8 (86) in 1992. The overall Round 22 highest score is 32.16 (208) by Essendon against Footscray 9.8 (62) at the Western Oval in 1982. The highest score in a quarter is 10.4 (64) by North Melbourne in the second quarter against Fitzroy in 1991 (Fitzroy won by a point) and by Richmond against Fitzroy in the last quarter in 1988 (Richmond won by 103 points). The overall Round 22 record is 13.4 (82) by Essendon against Footscray in the third quarter at the Western Oval in 1982. The biggest bag of goals is 12 by Jason Dunstall for Hawthorn against Richmond in 1992 (see above for match scores). This is also the overall Round 22 goalkicking record. The largest Round 22 attendance is 87,984 when Essendon played Carlton at the MCG in 1995.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V PORT ADELAIDE

Melbourne v Port Adelaide by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Port Adel.	Drawn
Football Park	2	11	0
MCG	8	3	0
Gabba	0	1	0
Marrara	2	1	0
Traeger Park	1	3	0
Adelaide Oval	4	4	0
	17	23	0

Highest Score

Melbourne	18.16 (124)	Rd 4	2004	MCG
Port Adel.	25.13 (163)	Rd 17	2007	FP

Lowest Score

Melbourne	3.9 (27)	Rd 9	1997	FP
Port Adel.	6.17 (53)	Rd 5	1998	MCG

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	53 points	Rd 4	2004	MCG
Port Adel.	89 points	Rd 17	2007	FP

Last Time They Met – Round 4, 2024, Adel. Oval

	Port Adel.	Melbourne
Quarter time	4.1	3.2
Half time	7.3	7.3
Three-quarter time	10.8	10.4
Full time	13.11 (89)	15.6 (96)

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mcccatalogue>

DID YOU KNOW?

The first match by a Port Adelaide team at the MCG was in 1883 against Melbourne. It was played in the rain on the Separation Day holiday (Monday, July 2). This holiday celebrated Victoria's establishment as a separate British colony from New South Wales in 1851. Melbourne won the game two goals to one but it appears that both teams treated the game as one that was mainly for fun. It was one of a series of games that Port played on an eastern tour in 1883.

BEST GOALKICKING PERFORMANCES BETWEEN THE CLUBS

- Both Brett Ebert and Chad Cornes (Port Adelaide) kicked six goals at Football Park in Round 17, 2007. Port Adelaide scored an 89-point win over Melbourne – 25.13 (163) to 11.8 (74). The crowd was 23,485.
- Melbourne's Kysaiah Pickett kicked six goals in Round 18, 2022, at Treager Park. Melbourne scored 12.11 (83) to defeat Port Adelaide 10.9 (69). A crowd of 6,312 witnessed the game.

AFL SNIPPETS – THE DEMONS VERSUS THE POWER

- First League Game** – Round 9, 1997, at Football Park (Adelaide). Port Adelaide 10.18 (78) defeated Melbourne 3.9 (27). Crowd: 32,958.
- First MCG League Game** – Round 5, 1998. Melbourne 14.18 (102) defeated Port Adelaide 6.17 (53). Crowd: 21,726
- First Marrara Oval (Darwin) Game** – Round 9, 2010. Melbourne 17.9 (111) defeated Port Adelaide 16.14 (110). Crowd: 8,848.
- First Adelaide Oval Game** – Round 24, 2011. Port Adelaide 17.10 (112) defeated Melbourne 15.14 (104). Crowd: 29,340.
- First Treager Park (Alice Springs) Game** – Round 11, 2014. Port Adelaide 14.11 (95) defeated Melbourne 11.9 (75). Crowd: 5,655.
- Only Gabba Game** – Round 9, 2020. Port Adelaide 12.11 (83) defeated Melbourne 4.8 (32). Crowd: 323.
- Best Port Adelaide Winning Streak** – Seven matches from Round 24, 2011, to Round 10, 2016.
- Best Demons' Winning Streak** – Three from Round 5, 1998 to Round 5, 1999 and from Round 17, 2021 to Round 18, 2022.
- Draws** – None to date.
- Finals** – None to date.

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library Volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, Gaye Fitzpatrick, and Edward Cohen, with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.