



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET MARCH 16, 2025

AFL 2025 Round 1 MELBOURNE V GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

FIRST WINS AT VFL/AFL LEVEL

MELBOURNE: In the inaugural VFL Round 1 in 1897, South Melbourne and Melbourne met at the Lake Oval. “Onlooker” in the *South Melbourne Record* noted: “It was an ideal day for football, the weather being cloudy, the barometer low and the wind light, whilst the playing ground was nice and springy after the recent heavy rains. The attendance was good, amongst the onlookers being a number of ladies, and with a liberal display of bunting.” In the game played on May 8, Melbourne led at every change and ran out comfortable winners. They were captained by Ned Sutton and their leading goalkickers were Jack Leith and Charlie Young with two each. Fred McGinis and Bert Robinson kicked single goals. South Melbourne were skippered by Bill Fraser. Their only goalkickers were Dinny McKay, Michael O’Gorman and Harry Purdy, who registered one goal each. The final scores were **Melbourne 6.8 (44)** defeated **South Melbourne 3.9 (27)**.

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY: It took the Giants until Round 7 in their inaugural AFL season (2012) to record their first victory. On May 12 at Manuka Oval in Canberra, **GWS Giants 13.16 (94)** defeated **Gold Coast Suns 9.13 (67)**. A crowd of 8603 saw the Giants kick five goals to nil in the final term to turn a four-point deficit at three quarter time into a 27-point victory at the final siren. The Giants had held the lead during most of the first half but four quick goals to the Suns in the last few minutes of the second quarter gave them a 13-point advantage at the main break. The Suns maintained their lead throughout the third term, but the Giants narrowed the gap, kicking three goals to two. A goal to Dylan Sheil just after the nine-minute mark of the last quarter put the Giants into the lead and they stormed home, kicking four more goals to secure an historic victory. The major goalkickers for the Giants were Jonathan Giles with three and Devon Smith with two.

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Dom Tyson was a gifted junior footballer who represented Victoria in the Under 12 Championships in 2005. He played school football at Trinity Grammar School and with TAC Cup team Oakleigh Chargers in 2010. In 2011 he captained the Oakleigh Chargers and represented Victoria Metro at the 2011 AFL Under 18 Championships. At Greater Western Sydney, he debuted against the Sydney Swans at Stadium Australia in the opening round of 2012, the club’s first AFL match. At GWS, he played 13 games in 2012 and 2013, contributing four goals. Moving to Melbourne in 2014, he became a consistent player for the Demons, taking the role of a hard-working midfielder. Strong overhead, and prepared to go in for the contested ball, Tyson had good touch and depth with his kicking. He won the Harold Ball Memorial Trophy in 2014, awarded to the Demons’ best young player, and finished second in the club’s best and fairest award. For the next four seasons through to 2018, Tyson gave the Demons great service, playing a total of 94 games and kicking 40 goals. He was traded to North Melbourne at the end of the 2018 season and played six games (1 goal) from 2019 to 2021 (3 games in both the 2019 and 2021 seasons). He was delisted by North at the end of the 2021 season.

OVER TO YOU

1. Who am I? I was the number one draft pick in 2009 and played 31 games (6 goals) for Melbourne in 2010 and 2011. I then moved to GWS in 2012, being one of the Giants’ prized recruits in their inaugural AFL season. I played 121 games (67 goals) for GWS until 2018. I concluded my AFL career at Hawthorn, playing 35 games (16 goals) in 2019 and 2020. I retired before the 2021 season began.
2. Who am I? In October 2010 I signed a three-year contract with GWS as an underage recruit. I made my AFL debut in the Giants’ first AFL match against the Sydney Swans in Round 1, 2012. From 2012 to 2015 I played 65 games (16 goals) for GWS. I was then traded to Melbourne and played 31 games (18 goals) for the Demons up until the end of the 2018 season. After being delisted by Melbourne, I joined Carlton through the rookie draft but I retired before the 2019 season commenced.
3. Who am I? I joined Melbourne in 1997 and played 251 games (56 goals) for the Demons through to the end of the 2010 season. I won Melbourne’s best and fairest award in 2006 and 2007, and was captain from 2008 to 2010. In 2012 I signed a one-year contract with GWS as a playing assistant coach. I made 13 senior appearances (4 goals) for the Giants in their inaugural AFL season before retiring.
4. Which three clubs has Jesse Hogan played for in the AFL?
5. Which three clubs has Sam Frost played for in the AFL?
6. Who coached Melbourne to the 1948 premiership?
7. In which year did GWS play in the AFL grand final?

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 1 AT THE MCG

The MCG has witnessed some big wins in Round 1. The biggest was Geelong's 127-point victory over Melbourne in 1996. This bettered Melbourne's 105-point win over South Melbourne in 1971. The Cats' score of 27.21 (183) in 1996 is also the best Round 1 score on the MCG. The best score in one quarter was by Essendon who kicked 11.3 (69) during the second quarter against Melbourne in 1935. Drawn games have figured prominently in Round 1 over the years. However, only two have taken place on the MCG, when Melbourne drew with Sydney 11.18 (84) apiece on March 27, 2011, and Carlton drew with Richmond 8.10 (58) apiece on March 16, 2023. The highest tally of goals kicked in Round 1 on the MCG was 12 by Essendon's Ted Freyer against Melbourne in 1935. The top attendance for a Round 1 game at the MCG is 90,151 for the Carlton-Richmond game in 2018.

STATISTICS FOR MELBOURNE V GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

Melbourne v Greater Western Sydney by Venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by GWS	Drawn
Gabba	1	0	0
MCG	5	4	0
Manuka Oval	2	2	0
Sydney Showground	0	2	0
Traeger Park	0	1	0
Docklands Stadium	1	0	0
	9	9	0

Highest Score

Melbourne	22.12 (144)	Rd 4	2013	MCG
GWS	19.10 (124)	Rd 19	2013	SSG

Lowest Score

Melbourne	3.16 (34)	Rd 21	2014	MCG
GWS	7.5 (47)	Rd 16	2023	Traeger

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	78 points	Rd 13	2012	MCG
GWS	64 points	Rd 21	2014	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 20, 2024, MCG

	Melbourne	GWS
Quarter time	5.5	1.2
Half time	6.7	6.4
Three-quarter time	8.9	9.6
Full time	12.11 (83)	13.7 (85)

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>

THE GIANTS FIRST WIN AGAINST THE DEMONS AT THE MCG

Melbourne won their first three AFL encounters with the Giants – in Round 13, 2012, at the MCG; in Round 21 the same year at Manuka Oval; and in Round 4, 2013, at the MCG. The Giants then won the next two games between the teams in Round 19, 2013, and Round 3, 2014. Both these games were played at the Giants' home ground, the Sydney Showground. The Giants' first AFL win over the Demons at the MCG came in Round 21, 2014, in front of a crowd of 17,227. The coaches that day were Paul Roos for Melbourne and Leon Cameron for GWS. Melbourne was led by co-captains Jack Grimes and Nathan Jones, while the co-captains for GWS were Phil Davis and Callan Ward.

After a close first quarter, Melbourne led by three points 2.4 to 2.1. The Giants then dominated the remainder of the game to lead by 19 points at half time and 44 points at three quarter time. The final scores were **GWS 15.8 (98)** defeated **Melbourne 3.16 (34)**. Melbourne did not score a goal in either the second or third quarters, their only goal after quarter time coming in the final term. For the Giants, the leading goalkickers were Rhys Palmer (4) and Will Hoskin-Elliott (3). Melbourne's goalkickers were Colin Garland, Dean Kent and Jack Watts. The best players for the Giants were Toby Greene, Will Hoskin-Elliott, Josh Kelly, Shane Mumford, Rhys Palmer, Dylan Shiel, Devon Smith and Adam Tomlinson. Melbourne's best included Nathan Jones, Dean Kent and Dom Tyson.

FROM GIANTS' PLAYERS TO PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

The Giants have not won an AFL premiership, but five players began their League careers at the Giants, only to leave and play in a premiership side with another club. They are **Tom Boyd** (Western Bulldogs 2016), **Jacob Townsend** (Richmond 2017), **Jeremy Cameron** (Geelong 2022), **Will Hoskin-Elliott** (Collingwood 2023), and **Bobby Hill** (Collingwood 2023).

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

Q1 Tom Scully. Q2 Tomas Bugg. Q3 James McDonald. Q4 Melbourne, Fremantle and GWS.
Q5 GWS, Melbourne and Hawthorn. Q6 Frank "Checker" Hughes. Q7 2019.

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.