



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

MARCH 22, 2025

AFL 2025 ROUND 2

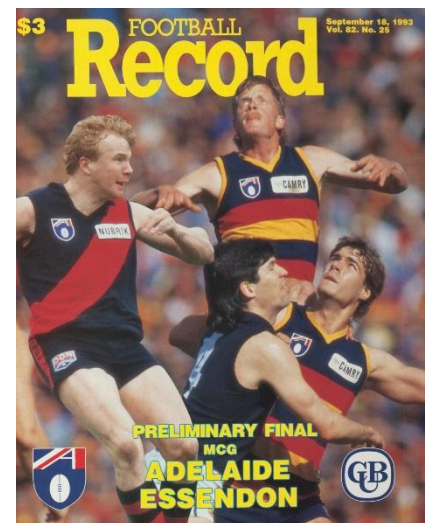
ESSENDON V ADELAIDE

ESSENDON VERSUS ADELAIDE AT THE MCG

Today's game is only the fourth to be played between these teams at the MCG since Adelaide joined the AFL competition in 1991. The most recent meeting between the Bombers and Crows at the MCG was 30 years ago – in Round 14 of the 1995 AFL season. In this game, a crowd of 40,269 saw Essendon totally outclass their opponents, winning by 122 points. The Bombers led by 32 points at the first change, increased their margin to 86 points at the main break and were 99 points ahead at three quarter time. The final scores were **Essendon 27.20 (182)** to **Adelaide 8.12 (60)**. Paul Salmon kicked eight goals for the winners.

In 1993 Adelaide made the AFL finals for the first time and, after beating Hawthorn in an elimination final at the MCG but losing to Carlton in a semi final at Waverley Park, they faced Essendon in the preliminary final, at the MCG (*Football Record* for the match is shown right). A crowd of 76,380 attended this game. The Crows dominated the first half of the match, kicking 12 goals to Essendon's six to lead by 42 points at half time. After the break, Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy shuffled his players all over the ground to try to find a competitive combination, and six goals to one in the third term put the Bombers right back in the game. According to the *Age* – "Relentless running with the ball was the hallmark of Essendon's comeback" – and a further five goals to the Bombers in the final quarter, to just one from the Crows, meant that Essendon ran out winners by 11 points. The final scores were **Essendon 17.9 (111)** to **Adelaide 14.16 (100)**.

Earlier in 1993, the Bombers and Crows had faced each other at the MCG for the first time in AFL competition. Essendon won the Round 9 confrontation before 34,372 fans by 46 points, **Essendon 16.15 (111)** to **Adelaide 10.5 (65)**. Darren Bewick was the Bombers' leading goalkicker with four, while Tony Modra booted three goals for the Crows.



DID YOU KNOW?

Prior to their two-point win over Essendon in the Round 19 game at Docklands last year, the Crows had lost their previous seven games against the Bombers.

OVER TO YOU

1. Who was Essendon's coach when they won the 1965 VFL premiership?
2. Who was Adelaide's coach when they won the 1997 AFL premiership?
3. Name the year. Essendon finished runners-up for the VFL premiership. London hosted the Summer Olympics for the second time. Bob Falkenburg (USA) won the Wimbledon men's singles championship.
4. Name the year. The Adelaide Crows debuted in the AFL. Monica Seles won the Australian Open women's singles championship. Let's Elope won the Melbourne Cup.
5. Who am I? I played 193 games for Essendon from 1957 to 1967 as a rover, kicking 303 goals. I was a member of the Bombers' 1962 and 1965 premiership sides, and won the club's best and fairest award three times. I was playing coach of West Torrens in the SANFL from 1968 to 1970, then Essendon coach in 1971.
6. Who am I? I played 130 games for the Adelaide Crows from 1993 to 2001, kicking 110 goals. I had previously played seven games for Hawthorn in 1991. My father was a football legend in South Australia.
7. Who is the only Adelaide player to have won the Norm Smith Medal?
8. In which year did Simon Madden win the Norm Smith Medal?
9. In which year did Adelaide finish runners-up in the AFL for the only time so far?
10. Which club did Essendon defeat to win the 1942 VFL premiership?

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>

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 2 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 2 score on the MCG was in 1990 when North Melbourne thrashed Richmond 32.17 (209) to 9.14 (68). North's John Longmire kicked 12 goals that night, still the most kicked by an individual in Round 2 at the MCG. The Roos kicked 13.3 (81) in the first quarter, which is the highest Round 2 quarter score. The highest ever Round 2 score was at Princes Park in 1969 by Carlton who defeated Hawthorn 30.30 (210) to 12.10 (82). Richmond's Doug Strang has the best Round 2 individual goalkicking performance with 14 goals at the Punt Road Oval against North in 1931. The biggest crowd at the MCG for Round 2 is 85,063 who saw Collingwood 14.16 (100) defeat Carlton 9.12 (66) in 1994. It is common for games to feature multiple goalkickers. However, in Round 2 at the MCG in 1934 only five players kicked goals when Melbourne 20.13 (133) defeated Hawthorn 6.8 (44). Melbourne's goalkickers were Allan La Fontaine (nine goals), Jack Mueller (seven) and Percy Beames (four). Jack Green (four) and Ted Poole (two) kicked Hawthorn's goals.

STATISTICS FOR ESSENDON V ADELAIDE

Essendon v Adelaide by Venue

	Won by Essendon	Won by Adelaide	Drawn
Adelaide Oval	3	2	0
Docklands Stadium	9	5	0
Football Park	6	13	0
MCG	3	0	0
Princes Park	3	0	0
Windy Hill	1	0	0
	25	20	0

Highest Score

Essendon	27.20 (182)	Rd 14	1995	MCG
Adelaide	30.8 (188)	Rd 10	2006	FP

Lowest Score

Essendon	5.10 (40)	Rd 14	2010	FP
Adelaide	2.9 (21)	Rd 17	2021	Docklands

Greatest Winning Margin

Essendon	122 points	Rd 14	1944	WH
Adelaide	138 points	Rd 10	2006	FP

Last Time They Met - Round 19, 2024, Docklands

	Essendon	Adelaide
Quarter time	3.2	2.3
Half time	7.5	11.4
Three-quarter time	15.8	13.10
Full time	17.11 (113)	17.13 (115)

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.

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Recruited from SANFL club North Adelaide, **Scan Wellman** showed promise as a key defender in his two seasons with the Adelaide Crows. He played 34 games for the Crows in 1994 and 1995, before moving to Essendon in 1996. At the Bombers, Wellman soon established himself as a key member of the defence, playing mainly at centre half-back. He was a member of Essendon's 2000 premiership team, playing in every game that season, and was then a member of their losing 2001 grand final side against Brisbane. He gained All-Australian selection in 1998 and 2001, and in 1998 he played two International Rules Tests for Australia against Ireland. He retired from AFL football in 2004 after playing 212 games (34 goals). He subsequently undertook assistant coaching roles at a number of AFL clubs.

Hayden Skipworth was an All-Australian junior player who was recruited by the Adelaide Crows from SANFL club Woodville-West Torrens. A midfielder/small forward, he made his AFL debut in the first round of the 2001 season. He subsequently played 44 games (22 goals) for the Crows from 2001 to 2006. While he played 21 senior games in 2005, he spent most of 2006 playing with Woodville-West Torrens in the SANFL, winning the Jack Oatey Medal as the best player in the SANFL grand final. He was delisted by the Crows at the end of 2006. He joined the Bendigo Bombers in the VFL in 2007, and after recovering from a knee injury, had an outstanding year with Bendigo in 2008. This led to him being drafted by Essendon in the pre-season draft and he played 11 senior games (11 goals) for the Bombers in 2009. He retired from AFL football at the end of the 2009 season.

Shaun McKernan is the younger brother of North Melbourne and Carlton player Corey. A ruckman and forward, he was drafted by Adelaide in 2008. He played 34 games over six seasons with the Crows, kicking 21 goals. He failed to gain a regular AFL spot with the Crows and was delisted at the end of the 2014 season. He joined Essendon in 2015 and was used as a forward and sometimes as a relieving ruck. Delisted at the end of the 2016 season, he was re-drafted by the Bombers in the 2017 Rookie Draft. He played ten games in 2018 and 16 in 2019 before being delisted at the end of the COVID-interrupted 2020 season. He moved to St Kilda in 2021 but played only four senior games before deciding to retire toward the end of the season.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

Q1 John Coleman. Q2 Malcolm Blight. Q3 1948. Q4 1991. Q5 John Birt. Q6 Matthew Robran.
Q7 Andrew McLeod (won in 1997 and 1998). Q8 1985. Q9 2017 (Richmond defeated Adelaide in the grand final).
Q10 Richmond.