



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET JUNE 8, 2025

AFL 2025 ROUND 13 CARLTON V ESSENDON

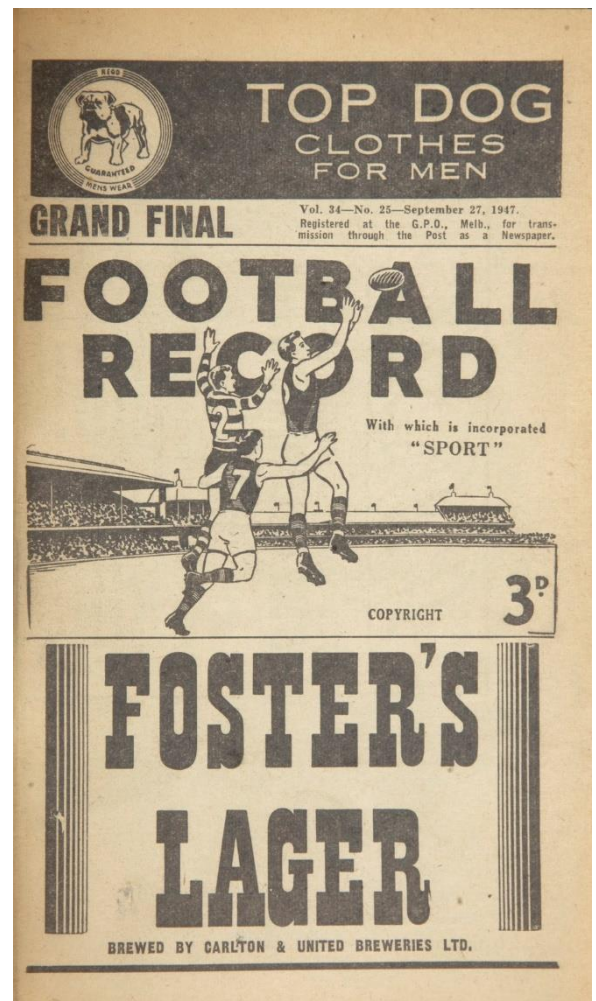
A GREAT GRAND FINAL – 1947

These two clubs have met in five grand finals, in 1908, 1947, 1949, 1962 and 1968, but the 1947 battle must rate as the most exciting. Carlton had finished on top of the ladder after the home and away season with 15 wins and Essendon was next with 14 wins. They met in the second semi final with Carlton winning by 16 points and progressing to the grand final. Essendon then played Fitzroy in the preliminary final, winning by 13 points, meaning that the Blues and the Dons would face off the next week.

A crowd of 85,793 saw wayward kicking by Essendon waste their opportunities in the first quarter, kicking three goals seven behinds to Carlton's four straight goals. A better second quarter by the Dons saw them kick five goals four behinds, but Carlton again kicked another four straight goals which saw the Essendon side up by 11 points at the main break. The third quarter saw this lead maintained, with both sides kicking two goals four behinds.

The last quarter was a thriller. Carlton started to get on top, and a late goal to Fred Davies, his fourth, saw the Essendon lead reduced to five points with just 90 seconds of play left. It was then that Carlton's Fred Stafford found his place in football history. A boundary throw-in saw Carlton ruckman Ken Baxter knock the ball into the path of Stafford who kicked the ball over his shoulder through the goals to put the Blues a point in front with 44 seconds left on the clock. Time ran out for the Dons, and they were left to regret their errant kicking for goal.

Stafford, in remembering his role in the win said, "I hadn't done much all day. It was getting near the end and time was running out. I remember that I ran in as the ball bounced and it bounced straight to me." He went on, "Money wouldn't buy that. That night I had a few beers and I was back at the club having a few more all day Sunday." **Carlton 13.8 (86) defeated Essendon 11.19 (85)**



PLAYED FOR BOTH

Stephen Bloomer came to the North Melbourne Football Club from the Victoria Markets side in 1931. A half forward, he played seven games (4 goals) for North before being cleared to Carlton the next season. He played just three games (0 goals) for the Blues in 1933 but went off again in 1934 to Essendon but played only one senior game (0 goals) for Essendon and was cleared to the Port Melbourne club in the Victorian Football Association in 1935 in an exchange deal for Tommy Lahiff. Bloomer became a regular in the Port senior side, playing 61 games (7 goals) from 1935 to 1939. He and Lahiff became close friends when Lahiff returned to Port in 1938. Bloomer died suddenly in 1943, aged only 33.

WHAT YEAR WAS THAT?

Can you name the year in which Bert Deacon (Carlton) won the Brownlow Medal, Hiraji won the Melbourne Cup, India and Pakistan won independence from Great Britain and the Kon Tiki balsa raft was sailed from Peru to Tahiti, a distance of some 4,300 miles (6920 kilometres).

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 13 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 13 score at the MCG is 29.18 (192) by Geelong against North Melbourne 17.13 (115) in 1992. The overall Round 13 record is 34.16 (220) by Fitzroy against North Melbourne 10.10 (70) at the Junction Oval in 1983. The highest score in a quarter at the MCG is 10.1 (61) by Geelong during the last quarter against Richmond in 1972. The overall Round 13 record for the highest score in a quarter is 13.2 (80) by South Melbourne against Carlton in the third quarter at the Lakeside Oval in 1934. The most goals kicked by an individual at the MCG in this Round is 11 by Doug Wade for Geelong against Richmond in 1972. The overall Round 13 record is 16 goals by Gordon Coventry for Collingwood against Hawthorn at Victoria Park in 1929. The highest Round 13 attendance at the MCG is 83,407 in 2009 when Essendon defeated Carlton.

STATISTICS FOR CARLTON V ESSENDON

Carlton v Essendon by venue

	Won by Carlton	Won by Essendon	Drawn
East Melbourne	11	14	1
MCG	31	39	4
Princes Park	48	28	1
SCG	1	0	0
Victoria Park	1	0	0
Waverley Park	6	11	0
Windy Hill	30	27	0
	128	119	6

Highest Score

Carlton	27.13 (175)	Rd 14	1975	WH
Essendon	28.14 (182)	Rd 21	2005	MCG

Lowest Score

Carlton	1.2 (8)	Rd 15	1898	EMCG
Essendon	2.2 (14)	Rd 10	1903	PP

Greatest Winning Margin

Carlton	102 points	Rd 2	1936	PP
Essendon	109 points	Rd 6	1985	WH

Last Time They Met - Round 13, 2024, MCG

	Carlton	Essendon
Quarter time	4.3	1.5
Half time	9.3	3.7
Three-quarter time	10.4	6.13
Full time	15.6 (96)	9.16 (70)

What Year Was That? Answer: 1947

EARLY DAYS

The June 14, 1924, edition of the *Football Record* set out the "Instructions to Umpires" which included:

"No notice is to be taken of press criticism, outside advice, or congratulations by friends, usually club partisans. You are particularly requested to keep well up to the play, and watch rucks closely when bouncing the ball in the centre, and when ball (sic) is being thrown in from out of bounds. Elbowing, holding, pulling, and pushing to be penalised. Do not turn back (sic) on mark or free kick. Try to run backwards, and if opponent runs over the mark, bring him back without fail. If he refuses to come back report him to the League. Watch high marks closely and give decisions quickly. Whistle need not be blown if player marks the ball on his own; just raise your hand above your head."

DID YOU KNOW?

- The highest scoring drawn game in VFL/AFL history was played between these two sides in Round 2, 1993. Carlton 19.18 (132) drew with Essendon 20.12 (132).
- In Round 15 of the 2024 season, the Carlton versus Geelong match included three sets of brothers. The De Koning brothers Sam (Geelong) and Tom (Carlton) lined up against each other, while the Henry brothers Ollie and Jack represented the Cats, and the Hollands brothers Elijah and Oliver represented the Blues.
- The Princes Park south oval used by Carlton from 1879 to 1893 was also known as "The Cow Pond".
- It may come as no surprise to many football fans that the Queensland Australian Football Umpires Association's official nickname is "The Maggots".

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>

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.