



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

JULY 19, 2025

AFL 2025 ROUND 19

CARLTON V MELBOURNE

VALE BRIAN DIXON (1936-2025)

The football world was saddened to learn of the passing of Brian Dixon on July 9. Dixon played 252 games for Melbourne from 1954 to 1968, mainly on the wing. He was a member of the Demons' 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1964 premierships sides, won the club's best and fairest award in 1960 and was named on the wing in Melbourne's Team of the Century. He was selected in the All-Australian team in 1961 and won the Tassie Medal for being the best player in the 1961 interstate carnival in Brisbane. The *Encyclopedia of AFL Footballers* describes him as: "a prolific possession-winner", who was "one of the finest wingers of the post-World War II era". After his playing career was over, Dixon coached North Melbourne in 1971 and 1972.

While still playing for Melbourne, Dixon entered state parliament in 1964 as the Liberal member for St Kilda. His political career flourished during the period when Rupert "Dick" Hamer was Liberal Leader and Premier, and Dixon held various portfolios, including Youth, Sport and Recreation, and Housing. He is probably best remembered for being a driving force behind the introduction of the *Life Be In It* health and fitness campaign by the Victorian Government in 1975. The campaign is, of course, famous for its television advertisements, which featured "Norm" as their main animated character. "Norm" was a middle-aged man with a prominent beer belly, who was supposed to represent the "normal" Australian bloke.

After losing his seat in parliament in 1982, Dixon worked mainly in sports administration and was often engaged as a public speaker. He continued to champion health and fitness through sport by representing various international associations, and was President of AFL South Africa, taking a keen interest in the development of Australian Rules football in other countries.

DID YOU KNOW?

Melbourne's Harry Davie kicked eight goals in the last quarter against Carlton in Round 14, 1925, at Princes Park. Davie finished the afternoon with 13 goals for the match – a record between the clubs.

OVER TO YOU

1. In which seasons have Carlton won the VFL/AFL premiership?
2. Who am I? I was 19th man in Melbourne's 1964 premiership team and Carlton's 1968 premiership team. The 1964 season was my first and the 1968 was my last.
3. Who am I? I am the son of Melbourne's legend Norm Smith who won four flags as a player and six as a coach. I played with the Demons in 1966 and 1967, and the Blues from 1968 to 1970. I had a VFA career with Port Melbourne and Coburg. At Coburg in VFA Division Two, I kicked 121 goals in the 1974 season.
4. In which seasons have Melbourne won the VFL/AFL premiership?
5. Who am I? I led the VFL goalkicking in 1961. A Carlton full forward, I have a distinctive nickname.
6. Who am I? I was a former Richmond premiership player and coach. At Melbourne as coach, I insisted the club change its nickname from Fuchsias to Demons. I coached Melbourne to flags in 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1948.
7. Who is the player nicknamed "SOS" and for what reason was this name conferred?
8. What was Melbourne's "Hassa" Mann's actual first name?
9. From what Victorian country town side was Carlton's John Nicholls recruited?
10. Who are the two Melbourne players to appear in six premiership sides?

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mccclcatalogue>

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.

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 19 AT THE MCG

The highest score is 27.11 (173) by Melbourne against Sydney 15.16 (106) in 1990. The overall Round 19 highest score is 27.16 (178) by Hawthorn against Fitzroy 15.14 (104) in 1988. The most goals by an individual in Round 19 at the MCG is eight by five players: Collingwood's Brian Taylor against Brisbane in 1988, Sydney's Simon Minton-Connell against Essendon in 1993, Melbourne's Garry Lyon against Essendon in 1994, Collingwood's Saverio Rocca against Essendon in 1995 and Melbourne's David Neitz against Carlton in 1996. The overall Round 19 goalkicking record is also the overall VFL/AFL record – 18 by Fred Fanning of Melbourne against St Kilda at the Junction Oval in 1947. Melbourne kicked 27.9 (171) to win by 93 points. The highest score in a quarter is 11.1 (67) by Carlton in the third quarter against Richmond in 1985. Carlton finished with 23.15 (153) to win by 73 points. The overall Round 19 highest score in a quarter is 13.4 (82) by Essendon in the second quarter against North Melbourne at Windy Hill in 1972. Essendon kicked 21.14 (140) to win by 45 points. The highest Round 19 attendance at the MCG was recorded at a night game on Friday July 24, 1992, when 88,066 saw Collingwood defeat Essendon by 22 points.

STATISTICS FOR CARLTON V MELBOURNE

Carlton v Melbourne by venue

	Won by Carlton	Won by Melbourne	Drawn
MCG	54	56	1
Docklands Stadium	3	2	0
Motordrome	1	0	0
Princes Park	52	33	1
Punt Road Oval	2	2	0
Waverley Park	9	4	0
	121	97	2

Highest Score

Carlton	25.15 (165)	Rd 10	1986	MCG
Melbourne	25.10 (160)	Rd 6	2004	MCG

Lowest Score

Carlton	1.2 (8)	Rd 7	1903	MCG
Melbourne	2.4 (16)	Rd 3	1899	PP

Greatest Winning Margin

Carlton	116 points	Rd 10	1986	MCG
Melbourne	109 points	Rd 9	2018	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 9, 2024, MCG

	Carlton	Melbourne
Quarter time	5.0	0.0
Half time	8.2	3.1
Three-quarter time	11.4	7.6
Full time	12.5 (77)	11.10 (76)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

13	Harry Davie	Melb	Rd 14	1925	PP
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PLAYED WITH BOTH CARLTON AND MELBOURNE

There have been 59 players who have played with both clubs, here are just two of those players:

JOHN COMBEN. A wingman recruited to the Blues from Werribee South. He was 175cm (5ft 9in) in height and weighed 70kg (154lb). The younger brother of Carlton legend, Bruce “Bugsy” Comben. John was the oldest of the Comben boys. Their father, Aubrey, had played with Geelong from 1926 to 1928. John represented Carlton from 1963 to 1966 in 38 games, kicking 11 goals. He moved to Melbourne in 1967 where he played one game (0 goals). His one match was in Round 4, 1967 against Carlton at the MCG. He then moved to Werribee in the Victorian Football Association. He was club captain in 1970 and 1971 and won the best and fairest in 1968 and 1970. He was a VFA state representative in 1968. In 2017 John Comben was inducted into Werribee’s “50 Greats of 50 Years”.

EARL SPALDING. Joining the Demons in 1987, Spalding was recruited from Western Australia with experience at Wesley College (Perth) and Perth (WANFL) where he played 63 games (79 goals) from 1983 to 1986. During the 1984/85 cricket season he played four first class matches for Western Australia as a fast bowler. Earl “Duke” Spalding was a key position player and was 198cm (6ft 6in) tall and weighed 110kg (17 stone 4 lbs). At Melbourne he played from 1987 to 1991 in 109 games, kicking 63 goals. At the Blues, under coach David Parkin, he combined well with captain Stephen Kernahan in the forward line. In the 1995 grand final Spalding contributed eight kicks, four marks and seven handballs for a total of 15 disposals. He kicked one goal in Carlton’s flag-winning victory. Post-AFL, he played with East Fremantle in 1998 and 1999 in 32 games with 41 goals. At East Fremantle he played with his brother, Scott, who had played one match with Carlton in 1993 and in 1998 the brothers were both members of East Fremantle’s premiership team.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

Q1 1906, 1907, 1908, 1914, 1915, 1938, 1945, 1947, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1987 and 1995. **Q2** Peter McLean.

Q3 Peter V. Smith. **Q4** 1900, 1926, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1948, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1964 and 2021. **Q5** Tom “Turkey” Carroll.

Q6 Frank “Checker” Hughes. **Q7** His father Serge Silvagni played 239 games with the Blues and Stephen is the son of Serge. He became popularly known as “SOS”. **Q8** Harold. **Q9** Maryborough. **Q10** Ron Barassi and Frank “Bluey” Adams.