



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

AUGUST 22, 2025

AFL 2025 ROUND 24

COLLINGWOOD V MELBOURNE

100 YEARS AGO

In 1925 Melbourne made the VFL finals for the first time since 1915. During the First World War, Melbourne had been absent from the VFL competition for three years (1916-18) and the “Redlegs” did not achieve a great deal of success immediately after they returned to the competition in 1919. In 1919 they finished on the bottom of the ladder (ninth) with no wins; in 1920 they finished eighth with five wins; in 1921 sixth with six wins and two draws; in 1922 sixth with seven wins; in 1923 ninth with three wins and 1924 eighth with four wins.

Melbourne was not the only club to withdraw from the VFL competition during the First World War, but their three-year absence was the longest of any club. Four clubs – Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond – continued to play throughout the war. Collingwood was a consistent finalist during, and after, the First World War, taking out the premiership in 1917 and 1919. They did, however, miss the finals in both 1923 and 1924.

Melbourne finished the 1925 VFL season in third place on the ladder, having won 12 and drawn one of their 17 home and away games (three new clubs – Footscray, Hawthorn and North Melbourne joined the VFL in 1925 to make it a 12-team competition). Geelong finished on top of the ladder with 15 wins, Essendon was second with 13 wins and Collingwood fourth with 12 wins. Under the *Argus* finals system in operation at the time, the second placed Essendon played the fourth placed Collingwood in the first week of the finals, followed the next Saturday by the top placed Geelong playing the third placed Melbourne. Both these games ended with the lower placed team taking the honours, Collingwood defeating Essendon by ten points and Melbourne defeating Geelong by 15 points. Collingwood and Melbourne therefore qualified to play in the (preliminary) final, with Geelong having the right to challenge the winner to a ‘grand final’ match because they had finished on top of the ladder at the end of the home and away rounds.

During the home and away season the Magpies had defeated the “Redlegs” on the two occasions they had met – by 17 points in Round 2 at Victoria Park and by 13 points in Round 13 at the MCG. Unfortunately for Melbourne, Collingwood’s superiority over them continued in the (preliminary) final, the Magpies winning by 37 points. Melbourne led by five points at quarter time, but Collingwood kicked seven goals to one in the final three quarters to record a comfortable victory. The final scores were **Collingwood 8.15 (63) defeated Melbourne 3.8 (26)**. Collingwood’s champion full forward Gordon Coventry kicked five goals and was the only multiple goalkicker in the game.

In the grand final the following week Geelong defeated Collingwood by ten points to win their first VFL premiership. In 1926 Melbourne won their first VFL premiership since 1900, beating Collingwood in both a semi-final and the grand final.

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Lou Riley was born in NSW in 1909, but his family moved to Ballarat when he was an infant. He started his football career in Ballarat and had been playing for Golden Point when he was recruited by Melbourne in 1932. A half forward flanker, he played 20 games for the Demons from 1932 to 1934, kicking 27 goals. He transferred to Collingwood during the 1934 season and played 44 games (60 goals) for the Magpies from 1934 to 1938. He was a member of Collingwood’s 1935 and 1936 premiership teams.

OVER TO YOU

1. Who am I? Picked up by Melbourne in the pre-season draft after playing for East Fremantle in the WAFL, I made 138 senior appearances for the Demons from 1997 to 2002, kicking 63 goals. I was traded to Collingwood after the 2002 AFL season, where I played 62 games (31 goals) from 2003 to 2005.
2. Who am I? I am a current Collingwood player who played 100 games (80 goals) for Melbourne from 2011 to 2015.
3. Who am I? I played 165 games (97 goals) for Melbourne from 2005 to 2016. I was then traded to Collingwood, where I played 33 games (2 goals) from 2017 to 2020.

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 24 ON THE MCG

There have only been eleven AFL matches played on Round 24 at the MCG. These were played in 1991 (1 game), 1992 (1 game), 1994 (2 games), 2011 (2 games), 2023 (2 games) and 2024 (3 games). The highest score is 22.17 (149) by Hawthorn against Melbourne 20.11 (130) in 1992 and 22.17 (149) by Geelong against Collingwood 8.5 (53) in 2011. The biggest margin for this round at the MCG is 96 points by Geelong against Collingwood in 2011. The overall Round 24 highest score is 28.12 (180) by Adelaide against North Melbourne 16.11 (107) at Football Park in 1991. The largest winning margin on this round is Geelong's 96 points against Collingwood. The biggest bag of goals at the MCG in Round 24 is eight by David Cloke for Richmond against Carlton in 1991. This was the first Round 24 match at the ground and Cloke's last game of his 333-game career. The overall Round 24 goalkicking record is 11 by St Kilda's Tony Lockett against Sydney at Moorabbin in 1991. The biggest Round 24 attendance at the MCG is 85,705 for the 2011 Geelong v Collingwood clash. This is also the League record for this round.

STATISTICS FOR COLLINGWOOD V MELBOURNE

Collingwood v Melbourne by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Melbourne	Drawn
Albert Park	2	0	0
Gabba	0	1	0
MCG	88	59	3
Punt Road	3	2	0
SCG	1	0	0
Victoria Park	56	19	2
Waverley Park	6	4	0
	156	85	5

Highest Score

Collingwood	27.11 (173)	Rd 2	1996	MCG
Melbourne	25.18 (168)	Rd 20	1982	VP

Lowest Score

Collingwood	2.2 (14)	GF	1960	MCG
Melbourne	1.5 (11)	Rd 10	1898	VP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	109 points	Rd 15	1919	MCG
Melbourne	94 points	Rd 10	1939	MCG

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

10	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 18	1933	VP
10	G. Margitich	Melb	Rd 18	1933	VP
10	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 6	1971	MCG
10	S. Rocca	Coll	Rd 2	1997	MCG

Last Match – Round 13, 2025, MCG

	Collingwood	Melbourne
Quarter time	2.2	2.2
Half time	6.2	4.6
Three-quarter time	9.3	7.8
Full time	11.6 (72)	10.11 (71)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Both Collingwood and Melbourne were founder members of the Victorian Football League (VFL) in 1897. Their first VFL encounter was in Round 6 of the 1897 season, when **Melbourne 5.3 (33) defeated Collingwood 3.8 (26)** at the MCG. Later that season (Round 13), **Collingwood 5.13 (43) defeated Melbourne 3.10 (28)** at Collingwood's home ground – Victoria Park.
- The first finals game between the teams was also in the inaugural VFL season, when **Collingwood 7.9 (51) defeated Melbourne 7.5 (47)** at the MCG. The 1897 finals were a round-robin affair between the top four teams – Essendon, Geelong, Collingwood and Melbourne. Essendon won all their finals matches and therefore took out the first VFL premiership.
- Collingwood and Melbourne did not meet again in a finals match until 1925 when Collingwood defeated Melbourne in the (preliminary) final – see story on the reverse side of this fact sheet.
- The following season Melbourne defeated Collingwood in the grand final to win the 1926 premiership. This was the first of seven VFL grand finals contested between the teams. Melbourne won six of these in 1926, 1939, 1955, 1956, 1960 and 1964. Collingwood's only victory was in 1958.
- The most recent final between Collingwood and Melbourne was in 2023 when **Collingwood 9.6 (60) defeated Melbourne 7.11 (53)** in the first qualifying final at the MCG.
- To date, nine Collingwood players have won the Brownlow Medal – Syd Coventry (1927), Albert ("Leeter") Collier (1929), Harry Collier (1930 tied), Marcus Whelan (1939), Des Fothergill (1940 tied), Len Thompson (1972), Peter Moore (1979), Nathan Buckley (2003 tied) and Dane Swan (2011). Melbourne has six Brownlow Medallists: Ivor Warne-Smith (1926 & 1928), Don Cordner (1946), Brian Wilson (1982), Peter Moore (1984), Jim Stynes (1991) and Shane Woewodin (2000).
- Peter Moore is one of only five AFL/VFL players to have won Brownlow Medals at two different clubs. The others are Ian Stewart (St Kilda 1965 & 1966 and Richmond 1971), Greg Williams (Sydney 1986 and Carlton 1994), Chris Judd (West Coast 2004 and Carlton 2010) and Gary Ablett Jnr (Geelong 2009 and Gold Coast 2013).

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

Q1 Shane Woewodin. Q2 Jeremy Howe. Q3 Lynden Dunn.