



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2021 ROUND 2
CARLTON V COLLINGWOOD

LIBRARY FACT SHEET
MARCH 25, 2021

THEIR FIRST GRAND FINAL

The Argus, 3 October 1910

FOOTBALL FRACAS. PLAYERS COME TO BLOWS. FOUR MEN REPORTED.

The final league match on Saturday was seriously marred by what one old follower of the game unhesitatingly described as "the most disgraceful scene ever witnessed on a Melbourne football field." What happened in the playing arena may, by some, be discounted because of the actual results. A few men exchanged blows, two fell to the ground, 40 or 50 attendants and onlookers left their places, the police raced to the centre, the umpire bounced the ball, and the game went on again. Two minutes, perhaps, was the full term of the incident, but it was a period fraught with sensational possibilities. An umpire's whistle saved over 40,000 persons from being the witnesses of a pitched battle, in which hundreds of their own number must inevitably have been the belligerents. The occurrence will be investigated by the league, to whom four players—Bacquie and Sheehan (of Carlton) and Baxter and Shorten (of Collingwood) have been reported, Bacquie for striking Baxter, Baxter for striking Bacquie, Shorten for striking Bacquie, and Sheehan for striking Shorten.

With the opening of the final quarter the huge crowd was tremulous with excitement. It swayed at the sides, it surged at the goal-ends; it was always roaring. Carlton were behind on points, but they were determined to win while 25 minutes remained. The crowd's roar doubled in intensity when Elder bounced the ball on the centre cross. It was swept away to the Collingwood goal at the railway end. Collingwood supporters shrieked, and the Carlton yells became deafening. For minutes the men battled and fought at the mouth of the goal. Heads met, and players sprawled, and the crowd roared lustily and mightily. Collingwood relieved; but back came the rush.

Ten minutes from the start one fine kick sent the ball well down the field. Bacquie, standing opposite the Harrison stand, between the line and the centre, rose to take a mark. Baxter rose a second later. As the two men regained their feet, their arms were locked about the ball. Bacquie wrenched and twisted, Baxter hung on tenaciously. Bacquie fell back. Baxter was still gripping the ball. Bacquie released one hand and Baxter freed one of his hands. Bacquie, hot with rage that his possession of the ball being so obstinately disputed, raised his hand, and in a second the two men fell to the ground fighting. Fierce yells went up from the Carlton and Collingwood camps. Umpire Elder and the majority of the players had not had time to disengage themselves from the struggle at the goal's mouth when the men were struggling on the ground. Shorten, of Collingwood, was the first up with the fighting pair. He rushed to Baxter's assistance. Sheehan came up to help Bacquie, and Hughes arrived a second later. Every one of these players either struck or was struck. A stand-up fight was in progress in the centre of the field, all the players were running to the scene, then attendants left the grass at the railings and joined in the chase, policemen bolted from the sides, and twenty or thirty men from the rival camps jumped over the fences and set out to take part in the settlement. A mad melee was imminent. The vast crowd thrilled with excitement, and the roaring was terrific. Had the one incentive been there—the sinking of another blow—those crowds might have swarmed over the fences.

Elder, who had parted the contestants in the centre, carried the ball to the wing, and, furiously blowing his whistle, diverted attention, Bacquie and Hughes and Baxter were down on the ground, and men were standing about them ready to fight if necessary. Back flew the attention of the crowd, and immense roaring was varied by bitter yells. Elder whistled shrilly. Again the attention was turned from the prostrate forms. The ball was bounced, and, to the accompaniment of intense excitement, the Collingwood goal was once more in danger. That was the end of that ugly incident. Hughes who had been sorely struck, soon felt well enough to stand up, but several minutes elapsed before the small knot of attendants and a policeman, who were fanning Bacquie, parted and allowed the injured player to rise. The man who felled Hughes with a blow has not been identified.

Collingwood 9.7 (61) def. Carlton 6.11 (47)

OVER TO YOU

1. Can you name the half back line in Collingwood's Team of the Century.
2. How many times was Gordon Coventry Collingwood's leading goal-kicker?
3. Who am I? I played 142 games for Collingwood between 1899 and 1908. Four of my brothers also played league football. I played in two Collingwood premiership teams and I assisted with the coaching in the 1930 grand final. A stand at Victoria Park was named in my honour.

This Round in History – Round 2 on 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 Carlton v Collingwood

Carlton v Collingwood by venue

	Won by Carlton	Won by Collingwood	Drawn
MCG	37	35	0
Brunswick St.	1	1	0
Gabba	0	1	0
Princes Park	50	27	2
Victoria Park	30	53	2
Waverley	9	10	0
	127	127	4

Highest Score

Carlton	28.12 (180)	Rd 18	2000	PP
Collingwood	24.16 (160)	Rd 3	2000	MCG

Lowest Score

Carlton	0.6 (6)	Rd 5	1898	VP
Collingwood	0.9 (9)	Rd 6	1900	PP

Greatest Winning Margin

Carlton	111 points	Rd 18	2000	PP
Collingwood	108 points	Rd 18	2002	MCG

Last Time They Met – Round 14, 2020, Gabba

	Collingwood	Carlton
Quarter time	2.2	2.0
Half time	5.6	7.2
Three-quarter time	6.8	7.4
Full time	10.12. 72	7.6. 48

Most Goals in a Match

11	H. Vallence	Carl	SF 1	1931	MCG
11	H. Vallence	Carl	PF	1932	MCG
11	R. Todd	Coll	Rd 5	1938	VP

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Dale Thomas

Coming to Collingwood in 2006 from TAC Cup side the Gippsland Power via the 2005 National Draft, Dale Thomas played 157 games (121 goals) for the Magpies. In his first season he won the Harry Collier Trophy for the club's best first year player having previously been a Rising Star nominee. A member of Collingwood's 2010 premiership side, Thomas was nominated as an All Australian in 2011. Transferring to Carlton as a free agent in 2014, Thomas played a further 101 League games (34 goals) with the Blues, before retiring at the end of last season.

Jordan Russell

Picked by the Blues at number nine in the 2004 National Draft, Jordan Russell played a total of 116 games (18 goals) mainly as a defender but was moved up the field when Brett Ratten took over from Denis Pagan as coach in 2007. A hip operation in 2011 saw his form and fitness decline and he was delisted at the end of the 2012 season. Picked up by Collingwood, he played just nine games (0 goals) for the 2013 season and was again delisted. He then went off to Footscray where he captained their VFL side in 2015 and led them to a premiership in 2016; he was also appointed captain of the Victorian VFL State side that year.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

Q1 Bill Picken, Albert Collier, Nathan Buckley. **Q2** 16 times – from 1922 to 1937. **Q3** Bob Rush.

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>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick with MCC deputy librarian – research Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.