



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2022 ROUND 16 ESSENDON V SYDNEY

LIBRARY FACT SHEET JULY 2, 2022

THE FIRST VFL CLASH BETWEEN THE CLUBS

The first VFL clash between South Melbourne and Essendon took place at the Lake Oval on Saturday, June 19, 1897. In a low scoring game there were only three goals kicked, with the winners, Essendon, kicking just one of these. No goals were scored in the first quarter, Essendon scoring three behinds to South Melbourne two. The Southerners' only score in the second quarter was a goal but this was sufficient to give them the lead at the main break, the scores being South Melbourne 1.2 (8) to Essendon 0.6 (6). South scored their second goal in the third term, while Essendon added five straight behinds. Despite not having kicked a goal Essendon trailed by just four points at the final change. The Dons scored one goal two behinds to South's single behind in the final stanza, which gave them victory by three points. The final scores were Essendon 1.13 (19) to South Melbourne 2.4 (16). South Melbourne's goals were scored by Allen Burns and Tom Gilligan, while Edgar Croft kicked Essendon's sole major. Essendon finished the inaugural VFL season in second position on the ladder with 11 wins and three losses and eventually took out the first VFL flag when they were undefeated in the round-robin finals series that decided the premiership.

THEIR FIRST SYDNEY CLASH

Following South Melbourne's move to Sydney to become the Sydney Swans, the first game between the clubs in Sydney took place in Round 6, 1982, at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Sydney were captained by Barry Round and coached by Ricky Quade. Essendon's acting captain was Tim Watson and they were coached by Kevin Sheedy. The Bombers held sway by one point at the first change but six goals to two in the second quarter gave them a handy 23-point lead at the main break. The Swans got on top in the third quarter, kicking six goals six to two goals five, to take a two-point advantage at the final change. Although the Swans had eight scoring shots to six in the final term, the Bombers' accuracy proved decisive as they kicked six straight goals to four goals four. Essendon won the game by six points, the final scores being Essendon 18.9 (117) to Sydney 15.21 (111). Simon Madden and Wayne Otway kicked three goals each for Essendon, while Barry Round kicked three for Sydney. Essendon finished the 1982 season in fourth place on the ladder but subsequently lost the elimination final to the fifth-placed North Melbourne. Sydney missed the finals, being placed seventh.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sydney's eight consecutive wins against Essendon from 2012 to 2017 matched the club's best ever winning streak against the Dons; South Melbourne had previously won eight consecutive games against Essendon from 1915 through to 1920. Essendon won nine consecutive games against South Melbourne from 1959 to 1964 and from 1971 to 1975.

OVER TO YOU

1. How many premierships have Essendon won in the AFL/VFL?
2. How many premierships did South Melbourne win in the VFL (i.e. before moving to Sydney)?
3. How many premierships have the Sydney Swans won in the AFL (i.e. after moving to Sydney)?
4. In which year did John Coleman make his VFL debut?
5. Which VFL team did Bob Skilton coach from 1974 to 1977?
6. In which year did Essendon and South Melbourne contest the VFL grand final?
7. In which year did Kevin Sheedy make his debut as Essendon coach?
8. At which ground did South Melbourne play their home games in 1942 and 1943 when the Lake Oval was being used to accommodate servicemen during World War II?
9. Which ground did South Melbourne transfer to for home games in 1944, 1945 and 1946?
10. What was Essendon's home ground before they moved to Windy Hill in 1922?

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.

This Round in History – Round 16 on the MCG

The highest score in Round 16 on the MCG is 27.18 (180) by Hawthorn against Richmond 17.11 (113) in 1985. The overall Round 16 record is 34.18 (222) by Richmond against St Kilda 11.4 (70) at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1980. The most goals by an individual is 11 by Dermott Brereton for Hawthorn against Richmond in 1990. Hawthorn kicked 25.9 (159) to win by 91 points. The overall Round 16 goal-kicking record is 13 by Tony Modra for Adelaide against Richmond at Football Park (Adelaide) in 1993. Adelaide kicked 26.15 (171) to win by 139 points. The highest score in a quarter is 12.1 (73) in the first quarter by the Kangaroos against Essendon in 2001. Despite trailing by 58 points at the first change, Essendon went on to win by 12 points: 27.9 (171) to 25.9 (159). The overall Round 16 record for the highest score in a quarter is 13.3 (81) by Hawthorn against North Melbourne in the first quarter at Princes Park in 1982. Hawthorn went on to kick 32.14 (206) to win by 96 points. The highest Round 16 attendance at the MCG is 83,773 on Sunday July 19, 1998 when Essendon defeated Richmond by 19 points.

Statistics for Essendon v Sydney/South Melbourne

Essendon v Sydney/South Melbourne by venue

	Won by Essendon	Won by Swans	Drawn
Windy Hill	45	13	0
Docklands	4	3	1
Waverley Pk	2	1	0
MCG	12	2	0
SCG	11	19	1
Stadium Aus.	1	6	0
Junction Oval	2	1	0
Lake Oval	42	34	0
East Melb.	13	13	0
Princes Park	1	0	0
	133	92	1

Highest Score

Essendon	28.16 (184)	Rd 18	1964	Windy Hill
Sydney	36.20 (236)	Rd 17	1987	SCG

Lowest Score

Essendon	1.4 (10)	Rd 8	1900	Lake Oval
South Melb.	0.9 (9)	Rd 3	1899	East Melb
South Melb.	1.3 (9)	Rd 15	1901	Lake Oval

Greatest Winning Margin

Essendon	165 points	Rd 18	1964	Windy Hill
Sydney	163 points	Rd 17	1987	SCG

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

15	Bob Pratt	SM	Rd 3	1934	LO
13	Matthew Lloyd	Ess	Rd 3	1999	MCG
11	Bob Pratt	SM	Rd 14	1934	WH
11	John Coleman	Ess	Rd 2	1950	WH
11	John Coleman	Ess	Rd 2	1953	LO

Last Time They Met – Round 9, 2022, SCG

	Sydney	Essendon
Quarter time	5.5	2.3
Half time	9.12	4.4
Three-quarter time	12.16	5.7
Full time	14.21 (105)	6.11 (47)

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>

THEIR FIRST MATCH AT THE MCG

In 1912 South Melbourne topped the VFL ladder with 14 wins and four losses, while Essendon finished third with 12 wins and six losses. Under the finals system then in operation, the first placed team played the third placed team in the second semi-final. In a hard fought game in front of over 34,000 spectators, Essendon led at every change but only increased their eight-point lead at quarter time by a small margin in each subsequent quarter to eventually win by 12 points. The final scores were Essendon 7.12 (54) to South Melbourne 6.6 (42). Jack Kirby kicked three goals for Essendon and Frank Caine two, while Fred Carpenter booted four of South's six goals. As South Melbourne had finished on top of the ladder, under the VFL rules at the time, they had the right to challenge the winner of the (preliminary) final to a grand final match. Essendon defeated Carlton in the (preliminary) final so they faced South Melbourne in the 1912 grand final. The Dons proved too good again, this time winning by 14 points. The finals scores were Essendon 5.17 (47) to South Melbourne 4.9 (33).

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:

Q1 16 – 1897, 1901, 1911, 1912, 1923, 1924, 1942, 1946, 1949, 1950, 1962, 1965, 1984, 1985, 1993 and 2000. **Q2** Three – 1909, 1919 and 1933. **Q3** Two – 2005 and 2012. **Q4** 1949. **Q5** Melbourne. **Q6** 1912 – Essendon 5.17 (47) defeated South Melbourne 4.9 (33). **Q7** 1981. **Q8** Princes Park. **Q9** Junction Oval – St Kilda played home games at Toorak Park in 1942 and 1943 but we able to return to the Junction Oval in 1944, where they were joined by South Melbourne. **Q10** East Melbourne Cricket Ground.