



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 9 COLLINGWOOD V GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

LIBRARY FACT SHEET
MAY 14, 2023

A MAGPIE GREAT - MARCUS WHELAN

Although he would go on to win the 1939 Brownlow Medal, Marcus Whelan was so disheartened by his mediocre performances in his first three games with Collingwood in 1933 that he returned home to the family property at Bacchus Marsh. But Magpies' secretary Frank Wraith was very keen for him to return and was able to convince Whelan to give the big league another try. He played the last five games that year and then took over the pivot position in 1934, quickly establishing himself as one of the competition's top centremen.

Collingwood historian Michael Roberts wrote of Whelan:

"He was all class from head to toe and everything he did on the field bore a stamp of effortless ease. He was a long, beautiful kick, equally adept with short passes, and one of the best high marks for his size the game has seen. Although only 175cm tall, he would regularly outmark much taller opponents. Lou Richards once described this aspect of his game as 'glorious'."

Whelan was a key member of the Magpies' 1935 and 1936 premiership teams before going on to win the 1939 Brownlow Medal, polling 23 votes from the 17 games he played that season, beating Footscray's Harry Hickey and Essendon's Dick Reynolds. Not surprisingly he also won the Copeland Trophy that year.

Collingwood champion Bob Rose said of Whelan:

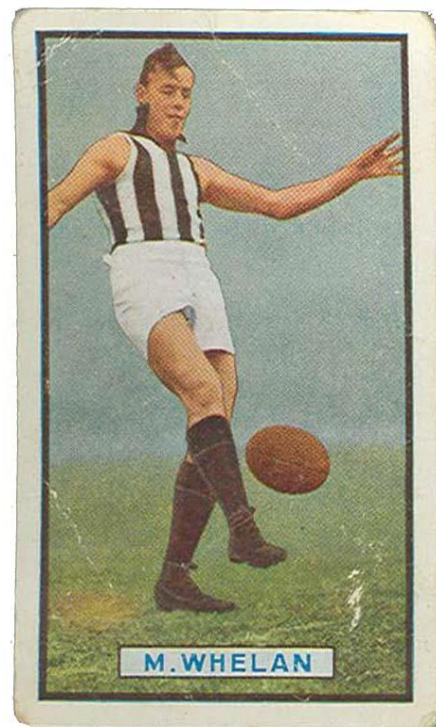
"He had great skill and did everything with great polish. Everything about him was immaculate. He never seemed to be ruffled, and he always seemed to have plenty of time to decide what to do with the ball. He also had a superb football brain, and was one of the most skilful players I've played with."

Whelan missed the seasons of 1943 to 1945 because of war service, but on his return he played 18 games in 1946 and another six in 1947 before retiring. In all he played 173 games with the Magpies and represented Victoria on three occasions. In 1997 he was named in Collingwood's Team of the Century.

GWS - THE STORY SO FAR

The Giants entered the competition in **2012** but they won just two games that season and only one in **2013**. There was significant improvement in **2014**, the team scoring six wins and lifting themselves off the bottom for the first time. In **2015**, the win tally was 11, which took them up to 11th place, two games out of the finals. Their scalps that year included finalists Hawthorn and Adelaide. Among the foundation players who by this time were into their fourth season with the club were Jeremy Cameron, Stephen Coniglio, Toby Greene, Adam Treloar, Will Hoskin-Elliot, Adam Tomlinson, Devon Smith, Nick Haynes and Dylan Shiel. Zac Williams, Lachie Plowman and Lachie Whitfield were in their third season, Josh Kelly in his second and Jack Steele in his first. With players of that quality on the list, it was not surprising that GWS took fourth place in **2016** with 16 wins and then beat Sydney and lost to the Bulldogs in the finals.

The club finished fourth again in **2017**, losing a preliminary final to eventual premiers Richmond, and then seventh in **2018**, beating Sydney but losing to Collingwood in the finals. GWS took sixth spot on the ladder in **2019**, with 13 wins and nine losses, and then beat the Western Bulldogs, Brisbane and Collingwood to qualify for the club's first grand final, but the premiership match would be a walkover for the Tigers who scored 17.12 [114] to GWS's 3.7 [25]. The team missed the finals in **2020**, lost a semi final in **2021** after finishing seventh and dropped down to 16th place in **2022**.



Marcus Whelan pictured on a 1935 Hoadley's *League Footballers* cigarette card. [Kindly donated to the Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum by JW Barnes 1987.1801.293]

This Round in History – Round 9 on the MCG

The highest score is 32.19 (211) by Geelong against Richmond 10.17 (77) in 1989. This is also the highest score on all grounds. The most goals kicked in this round is 14 kicked by Gary Ablett Snr. in the same game. This is the highest overall. The greatest winning margin is 141 points by Melbourne over Hawthorn in 1926 – 21.28 (154) to 1.7 (13). There has been one drawn game in Round 9 on the MCG. Melbourne and Collingwood each scored 10.5 (65) in 1909. Four drawn games have occurred on other grounds in Round 9. The highest Round 9 attendance was at the MCG in 1964 when 86,664 saw Melbourne 10.13 (73) defeat Collingwood 8.15 (63).

Statistics for Collingwood v Greater Western Sydney

<i>Collingwood v Greater Western Sydney by venue</i>			
	Won by Collingwood	Won by GWS	Draw
Syd Showground	3	3	0
MCG	4	3	0
	7	6	0

Last Time They Met – Round 15 2022, MCG

	Collingwood	GWS
Quarter Time	3.4	2.4
Half Time	5.9	2.4
Three-quarter Time	9.17	5.4
Full Time	11.22 (88)	12.5 (77)

Highest Score

Collingwood	26.18 (174)	Rd 18	2012	SS
GWS	19.8 (122)	Rd 18	2019	SS

Lowest Score

Collingwood	7.10 (52)	PF	2019	MCG
GWS	7.12 (54)	Rd 18	2012	SS

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	120 points	Rd 18	2012	SS
GWS	47 points	Rd 18	2019	SS

DID YOU KNOW?

- After losing their first five matches against Collingwood, GWS have won six of the last eight. These clubs have met in two finals, a 2018 semi-final which the Magpies won by 10 points and a 2019 preliminary final (AFL Record pictured right) which GWS won by four points.
- Collingwood, founded in 1892, was the youngest of the eight teams which made up the VFL when it was founded in 1897, the others being Fitzroy, Melbourne, Geelong, Carlton, South Melbourne, Essendon and St Kilda.
- The idea of an AFL team based in western Sydney originated from the AFL's plan in 1999 to make the North Melbourne Football Club Sydney's second team. North played several home games at the SCG but never managed to draw crowds of over 15,000 so the venture was abandoned after the 2001 season.
- Collingwood has had 20 coaches, five of whom have taken the club to one or more premierships.
- Adam Kingsley, GWS's third coach, played 170 games for Port Adelaide and was a member of that club's premiership team in 2004. He was an assistant coach at Port Adelaide, St Kilda and Richmond.
- Nathan Buckley won Collingwood's best and fairest award six times and Len Thompson won it five times. Scott Pendlebury has also won the award five times. Josh Kelly and Lachie Whitfield are dual winners at GWS.
- Gordon Coventry was Collingwood's leading goalkicker 16 times.
- Jeremy Cameron was leading goal scorer for GWS nine times.



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 Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL