

## AFL 2011 ROUND 1 MELBOURNE V SYDNEY



SUNDAY  
MARCH 27, 2011  
FACT SHEET

### THE FIRST VICTORIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROUND ON SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1897.

Melbourne and South Melbourne played in the first round of matches of the newly formed Victorian Football League in Round 1, 1897. Jim Main, in his *In the Blood: South Melbourne-Sydney Swans Football Club*, explained: "Saturday, May 8, 1897, might have dawned cool and misty but, by mid afternoon, it was a glorious autumn day. There also was an air of excitement in Melbourne as this day represented the birth of the Victorian Football League with four scheduled matches – South Melbourne v Melbourne, Collingwood v St Kilda, Fitzroy v Carlton and Essendon v Geelong." The match was reported in the *South Melbourne Record* as taking place before a good crowd including "a number of ladies." Melbourne 6.8 (44) defeated South Melbourne 3.9 (27) at the Lake Oval. In the Round 8 game on June 26, 1897, the teams met again at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. This time the result was different, with South Melbourne 11.7 (73) convincingly defeated Melbourne 3.2 (20).

### FINALS BETWEEN THE CLUBS

**1936 Preliminary Final** at the MCG on September 26, 1936 South Melbourne 13.11 (89) defeated Melbourne 8.15 (63). A crowd of 50,758 saw Bob Pratt kick five goals for the winners and Eric "Tarzan" Glass kick three goals for the Redlegs. Graeme Atkinson commented: "Laurie Nash's dominance over Melbourne's Jack Mueller, plus South's uncanny accuracy, decided the result of the Preliminary Final. South, aided by eight successive goals from the start of play until just after half time, had a score of eleven goals one on the board at three quarter time...". The Redlegs were far more inaccurate throughout the day. South Melbourne's best were Jack Graham, Herbie Matthews, Jack Bissett, Ken Dineen, Pratt, Nash, Austin Robertson, Lindsay Richards and Jim Cleary. Melbourne was well served by "Rowley" Fischer, Ray Wartman, Allan La Fontaine, Gordon Ogden, Johnny Lewis, Lou "Pop" Reiffel, Gordon Jones and Jack Furniss.

**1987 First Semi Final** played on a Sunday at the MCG before a crowd of 80,292, Melbourne 21.23 (149) convincingly defeated Sydney 10.13 (73). The Demons received great coaching inspiration from John Northey. The Melbourne rucks of Jim Stynes and Steve O'Dwyer wore down Swans ruckman John Ironmonger. At full-back Sean Wight accounted for Swan Tony Morwood. For the winners Robert Flower contributed four goals while Greg Healy and Tony Campbell kicked two goals each. Melbourne's best players were Flower, Healy, Steven Stretch, Graeme Yeates, Danny Hughes and Earl Spalding. For Sydney, the best were Craig Bolton, Greg Williams, Gerard Healy, Mark Browning, Mark Roberts and Craig Holden.

### "THE PROPAGANDA ROUND" IN 1952

In Round 8 of 1952 the VFL created and named "National Day" which saw games played in a variety of locations around Australia. The media, however, tagged these games "The Propaganda Round". The matches took place at country centres and interstate capital cities. The games included South Melbourne v North Melbourne (Albury), Geelong v Essendon (Brisbane), Richmond v Collingwood (Sydney), Fitzroy v Melbourne (Hobart), Carlton v Hawthorn (Euroa) and Footscray v St Kilda (Yallourn). As Stephen Rodgers pointed out in *Every Game Ever Played*: "The VFL had devised a novel plan to promote the code in other states. With a Victoria-Western Australia match to be played at the MCG on 14 June, the League arranged a full round for premiership points at selected interstate and country venues." The match at the Sydney Cricket Ground was only the fourth VFL match to take place in Sydney. Collingwood 10.12 (72) defeated Richmond 5.6 (36) before a crowd of 24,174.

### OVER TO YOU

1. Who am I? I was a tall half forward flanker/forward pocket who could play in the ruck. I joined Melbourne from East Burwood as a 20-year-old in 1964. In my first season I was centre half forward in the Demons' premiership team. At Melbourne from 1964 to 1967 I played 36 games and kicked 49 goals. I joined South Melbourne in 1968 and played a further 57 games and kicked 35 goals until I retired in 1970.
2. Name the centre line in South Melbourne/Sydney's Team of the Century.
3. Who is the South Melbourne/Sydney player to kick the most goals in a game for the club?
4. Who won Melbourne's best and fairest in 2006 and 2007?
5. What was the year? Barry Davis switched clubs. Glenferrie hosted its last League match. Graeme John was coaching the Swans. Rex Hunt earned his second Premiership Medallion.
6. In which year did more than 90,000 watch Victoria defeat South Australia at the MCG?
7. Since 1897, which clubs have had nicknames based on flowers?

## This Round in History – Round 1 on the MCG

The MCG has witnessed some big wins in Round 1. The largest was Geelong's 127-point victory against Melbourne in 1996. This bettered Melbourne's 105-point win over South Melbourne in 1971.

The Cats' score of 27.21 (183) in 1996 is also the best Round 1 score on the MCG. The best score in one quarter was by Essendon who kicked 11.3 (69) during the second quarter against Melbourne in 1935.

Drawn games have figured prominently in Round 1 over the years (10 in all) but none has taken place on the MCG.

The highest tally of goals kicked in Round 1 on the MCG was 12 by Essendon's Ted Freyer against Melbourne in 1935.

The top attendance for a Round 1 game at the MCG was 87,119 for the Carlton-Collingwood game in 1995.

### Statistics for Melbourne v Sydney

#### Melbourne v Sydney by venue

	Won By Melbourne	Won By Sydney	Drawn
MCG	49	39	1
Junction Oval	0	2	0
Manuka Oval	0	3	0
Waverley Park	2	4	0
Punt Road	2	3	0
Docklands	0	2	0
SCG	9	13	0
Stadium Aust.	1	0	0
Lake Oval	28	39	0
Princes Park	1	1	0
	92	106	1

#### Most Goals in a Match

12	L. White	Sth. Melb.	Rd 5	1942	PP
10	R. Osborne	Sydney	Rd 13	1993	SCG

#### Highest Score

Melbourne	26.21 (177)	Rd 15	1991	SCG
Sydney	29.15 (189)	Rd 17	1986	SCG

#### Lowest Score

Melbourne	0.8 (8)	Rd 12	1912	MCG
South Melbourne	2.3 (15)	Rd 6	1898	MCG

#### Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	107 pts	Rd 6	1939	MCG
Sydney	124 pts	Rd 17	1986	SCG

#### Last Match – Round 17, 2010, MCG

	Melbourne	Sydney
Quarter time	8.2	2.1
Half time	12.4	4.4
Three-quarter time	20.8	6.6
Full time	22.10 (142)	10.9 (69)

### IF YOU DON'T MIND GOAL UMPIRE!

Goal umpires are intrinsic to Australian Football. Footballers in 1850s Melbourne seem to have adopted the Eton College practice of teams choosing "Two umpires ... one by each party: their position to be at the goals of their respective parties." ("The Laws of Football as Played at Eton," *Lillywhite's Guide to Cricketers ... 1859* pp.32-33.). They were formally recognised in the Melbourne Football Club's first revision of its laws in 1859 when "umpires" and team captains were empowered to be "judges of infringements." These early umpires stood near the goals and were the direct predecessors of today's goal umpires. During the early 1870s, central umpires became common and in 1872 the goal umpire's role was restricted to being the "sole Judges of Goals and of cases of the ball going behind Goal." It was not until 1874 that the term "Goal Umpire" was formally introduced to the code. By 1886 they were using white flags to signal scores and in 1910 VFL goal umpires received white coats for the first time. This was a snippet of news from a scrapbook in late-May 1910.

"Goal umpires of the League created something like a sartorial sensation on Saturday. They came out in long white coats, and one blushed like a belle at a ball when a section of one of the crowds began to pass remarks at the cut of the flowing robe. On this subject 'W.M.', of Richmond, writes:- 'In company with some friends I was present at the match Fitzroy v. Richmond, and wish to enter a vigorous protest against the latest silly fad of the League, viz., the over-all white coats of the goal umpires. These poor unfortunates had to run the gauntlet of jeers and offensive laughter all over the ground, and I think it grossly unfair that men are placed in such a position. If a distinguished white coat is necessary, by all means have one, but let it be in reason, and not dangling down to their boots, to the amusement of a mixed crowd.' "

**OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:** Q1 Graeme Jacobs. Q2 David Murphy (wing), Greg Williams (centre) and Herb Matthews (wing). Q3 Tony Lockett kicked 16 goals against Footscray at the Western Oval in Round 19, 1995. Q4 James McDonald. Q5 1973. Q6 1989. Q7 Melbourne (Fuchsias) and Hawthorn (Mayblooms).

### FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE:

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at:

<http://www.mcc.org.au/About%20the%20MCC/Heritage/MCC%20Library/Event%20Day%20Fact%20Sheets.aspx>

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