

# Scenes from the 1911 VFL Grand Final.

Essendon 5.11 (41) defeated Collingwood 4.11 (35).



Collingwood's Paddy Rowan marks. (Melbourne Punch, September 28, 1911. p.503.)



A montage of images from the 1911 grand final. (Australasian, September 23, 1911. p.918.)

2011 AFL  
GRAND FINAL  
COLLINGWOOD V GEELONG



OCTOBER 1, 2011  
FACT SHEET  
SUPPLEMENT

## 100 YEARS AGO: THE 1911 GRAND FINAL – BAXTER'S BLUNDERS

Essendon and Collingwood met in the 1911 grand final at the MCG on September 23, the crowd of 43,905 witnessing the use of guernsey numbers for the first time in a grand final. The game would be marred by wet weather, the *Follower* observing that "Traps and vans were in the vehicular throng, and motor cars whizzed by every now and then. The blocks were wet and slippery after the rain, and during the afternoon no fewer than five horses fell in their shafts blocking traffic on the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets."

Although the showers began to ease on the Saturday morning, rain was falling again by the start of the game. The *Argus* stated: "Women looked longingly at the grandstands and pavilions, where every foot of space was taken. Those who had no umbrellas protested against their use."

Essendon had finished on top of the ladder with 15 wins, two losses and a draw, while their opponents Collingwood finished fourth with 12 wins and six losses. Essendon's coach Jack Worrall was well credentialed having led Carlton to three flags in succession (1906-08). The Magpies were coached by George Angus whose playing career had ended earlier in that season. Star Essendon ruckman Alan Belcher missed the game through injury.

Essendon, led by Dave Smith, took charge of the grand final early, but their inaccuracy kept Collingwood in the game. The score at half time was Essendon 3.9 (27) to Collingwood 1.5 (11), the Magpies' captain Dick Lee being their sole goal kicker. Because the league had been emphasizing that punctuality be observed, controversy ensued after the half time break when Essendon was slow to reappear. Even though umpire Jack Elder visited the room to hurry them up, not all the team followed him out. Five late comers were jeered by the spectators.

Collingwood rallied in the third quarter to reduce the lead to three points.

In a mistake ridden final quarter, Magpie forward Tom Baxter had the misfortune of twice kicking into the man on the mark. The *Argus* commented: "To the dismay of the side, Baxter kicked the ball into the arms of the man on the mark.

He takes the risk always in placing it very close to the mark, and the ball was then very heavy." Later Baxter repeated this terrible error with another place kick. With just one minute left, the shot proved to be Collingwood's final chance. Baxter would be cleared to St Kilda the following year.

The "Same Olds" (Essendon's nickname at the time) took the flag 5.11 (41) to Collingwood 4.11 (35), with no player kicking multiple goals. The *Argus* summed up the match thus: "The finish saved the game from being in any sense commonplace." It went on to comment that the Essendon supporters were "incoherently happy".

### 1911 VFL Grand Final, MCG

	Essendon	Collingwood
Quarter time	2.4	1.1
Half time	3.9	1.5
Three-quarter time	3.11	3.8
Full time	5.11 (41)	4.11 (35)

### Goals:

Essendon – Baring, Kirby, McLeod, Shea, Walker.  
Collingwood – Baxter, Lee, Minogue, Rowell.

### Essendon's 1911 grand final line-up:

Backs:	E. Hazel	B. Griffith	D. Hanley
Half-backs:	D. Monteith	B. Busbridge	L. Bowe
Centres:	W. Chalmers	B. Stewart	F. O'Shea
Half-forwards:	P. Shea	L. Armstrong	P. Ogden
Forwards:	J. Kirby	D. Smith (c)	B. Walker
Followers:	F. Baring	G. McLeod	E. Cameron
Coach:	J. Worrall		

### Collingwood's 1911 grand final line-up:

Backs:	E. Thomas	T. Rowell	P. Rowan
Half-backs:	J. Green	J. Sharp	D. McIvor
Centres:	J. Sadler	J. McHale	P. Gibb
Half-forwards:	G. Anderson	D. Minogue	P. Wilson
Forwards:	P. Gilchrist	D. Lee (c)	D. Vernon
Followers:	L. Hughes	D. Ryan	T. Baxter
Coach:	G. Angus		

## VFL/AFL Grand Finals 1898-2010

Year				Venue	Attendance	Norm Smith Medal
1897	<i>No GF</i>	<i>Essendon Premiers</i>		<i>Geelong Runners-up</i>		-
1898	GF	FITZROY	5.8 (38)	ESSENDON	3.5 (23)	Junction Oval 16,538 -
1899	GF	FITZROY	3.9 (27)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	3.8 (26)	Junction Oval 4,823 -
1900	GF	MELBOURNE	4.10 (34)	FITZROY	3.12 (30)	East Melb. CG 20,181 -
1901	GF	ESSENDON	6.7 (43)	COLLINGWOOD	2.4 (16)	Lake Oval 30,031 -
1902	GF	COLLINGWOOD	9.6 (60)	ESSENDON	3.9 (27)	MCG 35,202 -
1903	GF	COLLINGWOOD	4. 7 (31)	FITZROY	3.11 (29)	MCG 32,263 -
1904	GF	FITZROY	9.7 (61)	CARLTON	5.7 (37)	MCG 32,688 -
1905	GF	FITZROY	4.6 (30)	COLLINGWOOD	2.5 (17)	MCG 30,000 -
1906	GF	CARLTON	15.4 (94)	FITZROY	6.9 (45)	MCG 44,437 -
1907	GF	CARLTON	6.14 (50)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	6.9 (45)	MCG 45,477 -
1908	GF	CARLTON	5.5 (35)	ESSENDON	3.8 (26)	MCG 50,261 -
1909	GF	SOUTH MELBOURNE	4.14 (38)	CARLTON	4.12 (36)	MCG 37,759 -
1910	GF	COLLINGWOOD	9.7 (61)	CARLTON	6.11 (47)	MCG 42,790 -
1911	GF	ESSENDON	5.11 (41)	COLLINGWOOD	4.11 (35)	MCG 43,905 -
1912	GF	ESSENDON	5.17 (47)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	4.9 (33)	MCG 54,534 -
1913	GF	FITZROY	7.14 (56)	ST KILDA	5.13 (43)	MCG 59,556 -
1914	GF	CARLTON	6.9 (45)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	4. 15 (39)	MCG 30,495 -
1915	GF	CARLTON	11.12 (78)	COLLINGWOOD	6.9 (45)	MCG 39,343 -
1916	GF	FITZROY	12.13 (85)	CARLTON	8.8 (56)	MCG 21,130 -
1917	GF	COLLINGWOOD	9.20 (74)	FITZROY	5.9 (39)	MCG 25,512 -
1918	GF	SOUTH MELBOURNE	9.8 (62)	COLLINGWOOD	7.15 (57)	MCG 39,262 -
1919	GF	COLLINGWOOD	11.12 (78)	RICHMOND	7.11 (53)	MCG 45,413 -
1920	GF	RICHMOND	7.10 (52)	COLLINGWOOD	5.5 (35)	MCG 53,908 -
1921	GF	RICHMOND	5.6 (36)	CARLTON	4.8 (32)	MCG 43,122 -
1922	GF	FITZROY	11.13 (79)	COLLINGWOOD	9.14 (68)	MCG 50,054 -
1923	GF	ESSENDON	8.15 (63)	FITZROY	6.10 (46)	MCG 46,566 -
1924	<i>No GF</i>	<i>Essendon Premiers</i>		<i>Richmond Runners-up</i>		-
1925	GF	GEELONG	10.19 (79)	COLLINGWOOD	9.15 (69)	MCG 64,288 -
1926	GF	MELBOURNE	17.17 (119)	COLLINGWOOD	9.8 (62)	MCG 59,632 -
1927	GF	COLLINGWOOD	2.13 (25)	RICHMOND	1.7 (13)	MCG 34,551 -
1928	GF	COLLINGWOOD	13.18 (96)	RICHMOND	9.9 (63)	MCG 50,026 -
1929	GF	COLLINGWOOD	11.13 (79)	RICHMOND	7.8 (50)	MCG 63,336 -
1930	GF	COLLINGWOOD	14.16 (100)	GEELONG	9.16 (70)	MCG 45,022 -
1931	GF	GEELONG	9.14 (68)	RICHMOND	7.6 (48)	MCG 60,712 -
1932	GF	RICHMOND	13.14 (92)	CARLTON	12.11 (83)	MCG 69,724 -
1933	GF	SOUTH MELBOURNE	9.17 (71)	RICHMOND	4.5 (29)	MCG 75,754 -
1934	GF	RICHMOND	19.14 (128)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	12.17 (89)	MCG 65,335 -
1935	GF	COLLINGWOOD	11.12 (78)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	7.16 (58)	MCG 54,154 -
1936	GF	COLLINGWOOD	11.23 (89)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	10.18 (78)	MCG 74,019 -
1937	GF	GEELONG	18.14 (122)	COLLINGWOOD	12.18 (90)	MCG 88,540 -
1938	GF	CARLTON	15.10 (100)	COLLINGWOOD	13.7 (85)	MCG 96,486 -
1939	GF	MELBOURNE	21.22 (148)	COLLINGWOOD	14.11 (95)	MCG 78,110 -
1940	GF	MELBOURNE	15.17 (107)	RICHMOND	10.8 (68)	MCG 70,330 -
1941	GF	MELBOURNE	19.13 (127)	ESSENDON	13.20 (98)	MCG 79,687 -
1942	GF	ESSENDON	19.18 (132)	RICHMOND	11.13 (79)	Princes Park 49,000 -
1943	GF	RICHMOND	12.14 (86)	ESSENDON	11.15 (81)	Princes Park 42,100 -
1944	GF	FITZROY	9.12 (66)	RICHMOND	7.9 (51)	Junction Oval 43,000 -
1945	GF	CARLTON	15.13 (103)	SOUTH MELBOURNE	10.15 (75)	Princes Park 62,986 -
1946	GF	ESSENDON	22.18 (150)	MELBOURNE	13.9 (87)	MCG 73,743 -
1947	GF	CARLTON	13.8 (86)	ESSENDON	11.19 (85)	MCG 85,815 -
1948	GF	ESSENDON	7.27 (69)	MELBOURNE	10.9 (69)	MCG 85,658 -
1948	GF Replay	MELBOURNE	13.11 (89)	ESSENDON	7.8 (50)	MCG 52,226 -
1949	GF	ESSENDON	18.17 (125)	CARLTON	6.16 (52)	MCG 90,453 -
1950	GF	ESSENDON	13.14 (92)	NORTH MELBOURNE	7.12 (54)	MCG 87,601 -
1951	GF	GEELONG	11.15 (81)	ESSENDON	10.10 (70)	MCG 84,109 -
1952	GF	GEELONG	13.8 (86)	COLLINGWOOD	5.10 (40)	MCG 81,204 -
1953	GF	COLLINGWOOD	11.11 (77)	GEELONG	8.17 (65)	MCG 89,060 -
1954	GF	FOOTSCRAY	15.12 (102)	MELBOURNE	7.9 (51)	MCG 80,897 -
1955	GF	MELBOURNE	8.16 (64)	COLLINGWOOD	5.6 (36)	MCG 88,053 -

Year				Venue	Attendance	Norm Smith Medal
1956	GF	MELBOURNE	17.19 (121)	COLLINGWOOD	6.12 (48)	MCG 115,803 -
1957	GF	MELBOURNE	17.14 (116)	ESSENDON	7.13 (55)	MCG 100,324 -
1958	GF	COLLINGWOOD	12.10 (82)	MELBOURNE	9.10 (64)	MCG 97,956 -
1959	GF	MELBOURNE	17.13 (115)	ESSENDON	11.12 (78)	MCG 103,506 -
1960	GF	MELBOURNE	8.14 (62)	COLLINGWOOD	2.2 (14)	MCG 97,457 -
1961	GF	HAWTHORN	13.16 (94)	FOOTSCRAY	7.9 (51)	MCG 107,935 -
1962	GF	ESSENDON	13.12 (90)	CARLTON	8.10 (58)	MCG 98,385 -
1963	GF	GEELONG	15.19 (109)	HAWTHORN	8.12 (60)	MCG 101,452 -
1964	GF	MELBOURNE	8.16 (64)	COLLINGWOOD	8.12 (60)	MCG 102,469 -
1965	GF	ESSENDON	14.21 (105)	ST KILDA	9.16 (70)	MCG 104,846 -
1966	GF	ST KILDA	10.14 (74)	COLLINGWOOD	10.13 (73)	MCG 101,655 -
1967	GF	RICHMOND	16.18 (114)	GEELONG	15.15 (105)	MCG 109,396 -
1968	GF	CARLTON	7.14 (56)	ESSENDON	8.5 (53)	MCG 116,828 -
1969	GF	RICHMOND	12.13 (85)	CARLTON	8.12 (60)	MCG 119,165 -
1970	GF	CARLTON	17.9 (111)	COLLINGWOOD	14.17 (101)	MCG 121,696 -
1971	GF	HAWTHORN	12.10 (82)	ST KILDA	11.9 (75)	MCG 118,192 -
1972	GF	CARLTON	28.9 (177)	RICHMOND	22.18 (150)	MCG 112,393 -
1973	GF	RICHMOND	16.20 (116)	CARLTON	12.14 (86)	MCG 116,956 -
1974	GF	RICHMOND	18.20 (128)	NORTH MELBOURNE	13.9 (87)	MCG 113,839 -
1975	GF	NORTH MELBOURNE	19.8 (122)	HAWTHORN	9.13 (67)	MCG 110,551 -
1976	GF	HAWTHORN	13.22 (100)	NORTH MELBOURNE	10.10 (70)	MCG 110,143 -
1977	GF	COLLINGWOOD	10.16 (76)	NORTH MELBOURNE	9.22 (76)	MCG 108,224 -
1977	GF Replay	NORTH MELBOURNE	21.25 (151)	COLLINGWOOD	19.10 (124)	MCG 98,366 -
1978	GF	HAWTHORN	18.13 (121)	NORTH MELBOURNE	15.13 (103)	MCG 101,704 -
1979	GF	CARLTON	11.16 (82)	COLLINGWOOD	11.11 (77)	MCG 113,545 W. Harmes (Carl)
1980	GF	RICHMOND	23.21 (159)	COLLINGWOOD	9.24 (78)	MCG 113,461 K. Bartlett (Rich)
1981	GF	CARLTON	12.20 (92)	COLLINGWOOD	10.12 (72)	MCG 112,964 B. Doull (Carl)
1982	GF	CARLTON	14.19 (103)	RICHMOND	12.13 (85)	MCG 107,537 M. Rioli (Rich)
1983	GF	HAWTHORN	20.20 (140)	ESSENDON	8.9 (57)	MCG 110,332 C. Robertson (Haw)
1984	GF	ESSENDON	14.21 (105)	HAWTHORN	12.9 (81)	MCG 92,685 B. Duckworth (Ess)
1985	GF	ESSENDON	26.14 (170)	HAWTHORN	14.8 (92)	MCG 100,042 S. Madden (Ess)
1986	GF	HAWTHORN	16.14 (110)	CARLTON	9.14 (68)	MCG 101,861 G. Ayres (Haw)
1987	GF	CARLTON	15.14 (104)	HAWTHORN	9.17 (71)	MCG 92,754 D. Rhys-Jones (Carl)
1988	GF	HAWTHORN	22.20 (152)	MELBOURNE	6.20 (56)	MCG 93,754 G. Ayres (Haw)
1989	GF	HAWTHORN	21.18 (144)	GEELONG	21.12 (138)	MCG 94,796 G. Ablett Snr (Geel)
1990	GF	COLLINGWOOD	13.11 (89)	ESSENDON	5.11 (41)	MCG 98,944 T. Shaw (Coll)
1991	GF	HAWTHORN	20.19 (139)	WEST COAST	13.8 (86)	Waverley Park 75,230 P. Dear (Haw)
1992	GF	WEST COAST	16.17 (113)	GEELONG	12.13 (85)	MCG 95,007 P. Matera (WCst)
1993	GF	ESSENDON	20.13 (133)	CARLTON	13.11 (89)	MCG 96,862 M. Long (Ess)
1994	GF	WEST COAST	20.23 (143)	GEELONG	8.15 (63)	MCG 93,860 D. Kemp (WCst)
1995	GF	CARLTON	21.15 (141)	GEELONG	11.14 (80)	MCG 93,670 G. Williams (Carl)
1996	GF	NORTH MELBOURNE	19.17 (131)	SYDNEY	13.10 (88)	MCG 93,102 G. Archer (NMeI)
1997	GF	ADELAIDE	19.11 (125)	ST KILDA	13.16 (94)	MCG 98,828 A. McLeod (Adel)
1998	GF	ADELAIDE	15.15 (105)	NORTH MELBOURNE	8.22 (70)	MCG 94,431 A. McLeod (Adel)
1999	GF	KANGAROOS	19.10 (124)	CARLTON	12.17 (89)	MCG 94,228 S. Grant (Kang)
2000	GF	ESSENDON	19.21 (135)	MELBOURNE	11.9 (75)	MCG 96,249 J. Hird (Ess)
2001	GF	BRISBANE LIONS	15.18 (108)	ESSENDON	12.10 (82)	MCG 91,482 S. Hart (Bris)
2002	GF	BRISBANE LIONS	10.15 (75)	COLLINGWOOD	9.12 (66)	MCG 91,817 N. Buckley (Coll)
2003	GF	BRISBANE LIONS	20.14 (134)	COLLINGWOOD	12.12 (84)	MCG 79,451 S. Black (Bris)
2004	GF	PORT ADELAIDE	17.11 (113)	BRISBANE LIONS	10.13 (73)	MCG 77,671 B. Pickett (PAd)
2005	GF	SYDNEY	8.10 (58)	WEST COAST	7.12 (54)	MCG 91,828 C. Judd (WCst)
2006	GF	WEST COAST	12.13 (85)	SYDNEY	12.12 (84)	MCG 97,431 A. Embley (WCst)
2007	GF	GEELONG	24.19 (163)	PORT ADELAIDE	6.8 (44)	MCG 97,302 S. Johnson (Geel)
2008	GF	HAWTHORN	18.7 (115)	GEELONG	11.23 (89)	MCG 100,012 L. Hodge (Haw)
2009	GF	GEELONG	12.8 (80)	ST KILDA	9.14 (68)	MCG 99,251 P. Chapman (Geel)
2010	GF	COLLINGWOOD	9.14 (68)	ST KILDA	10.8 (68)	MCG 100,016 L. Hayes (StK)
2010	GF Replay	COLLINGWOOD	16.12 (108)	ST KILDA	7.10 (52)	MCG 93,853 S. Pendlebury (Coll)

Victorian premiership clubs had been recognised from 1870, decades prior to the league's first season in 1897. Victorian and VFA (from 1877) premierships that predate the league were won by: Melbourne (1870, 1872, 1876), Carlton (1871, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1877, 1887), Geelong (1878, 1879, 1880, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1886), South Melbourne (1881, 1885, 1888, 1889, 1890), Essendon (1891, 1892, 1893, 1894), Fitzroy (1895), and Collingwood (1896).