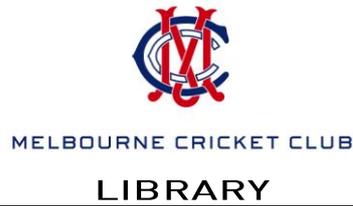


**AFL 2017
SECOND SEMI FINAL
GEELONG V SYDNEY**



**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017
FACT SHEET**

MOST RECENT SEMI FINAL ENCOUNTER

Geelong and Sydney's most recent semi final encounter was in 2005, when the teams met at the SCG before a crowd of 39,079. Geelong led by four points at quarter time and extended their margin to 20 at the main break. They still led by 17 points going into the final term but Sydney stormed home, kicking four goals two to one goal straight in the last quarter to win by three points. The final scores were Sydney 7.14 (56) to Geelong 7.11 (53). When Steve Johnson goaled for the Cats early in the last term, even the most optimistic Sydney fans must have thought winning the game was out of the question. Johnson had scored his goal through a lapse in concentration from the Swans' Nick Davis, and Sydney captain Brett Kirk had subsequently told Davis that, "You owe us one!" Kirk's comment had been intended to encourage his team mate, and it certainly had the desired effect, as Davis turned on one of the best last quarters ever seen at the SCG. He booted four goals for the quarter, the final one taking the Swans into the lead with just two seconds remaining on the clock. After Sydney's win, radio commentator (the late) Clinton Grybas shouted into his microphone, "It's grand larceny, it's daylight robbery. It's Ronnie Biggs, it's Ned Kelly. It's the greatest thieving effort you will ever see." Cats' fans no doubt agreed! Of Nick Davis's effort, Sydney coach Paul Roos later commented, "In the context of the game and the context of where the club got to, I rate Davo's quarter as the best quarter of footy ever played in a final." Sydney went on to defeat St Kilda by 31 points in a preliminary final and West Coast by four points in the grand final to claim the Swans' first premiership since 1933.

THEIR FIRST LEAGUE MEETING

The *Argus*, Monday June 7, 1897, reported on the first time these two original members of the Victorian Football League met in Round 5, the score being Geelong 10.12 (72) def. South Melbourne 3.6 (24).

PRIDE GOETH BEFORE A FALL.

South Melbourne were a proud twenty a week ago. Their foot was on the neck of the mighty Collingwood — Clarendon street blazed in red and white, and thus exulting they went to Geelong — Geelong, whose one victim thus far had been poor Carlton. It will be a long time before South Melbourne forget what they saw and felt on Saturday. For an hour they were a team dismayed and disorganised by the dash and brilliancy of the other side—and with never a moment's breathing space given them to mend their broken ranks or collect their scattered thoughts into something like a definite purpose. The pace set by Geelong in this first hour was simply demoralising. They were fit and eager, and their followers — young Joe McShane, Rankin, and Parkin, made it so hot that five minutes before half-time both rucks were stopped, and crawled off the field like men who had all the exercise they wanted.

Meantime the crowd had been roused to fever heat — for Geelong had put together 23 points before South Melbourne opened their score, and at half-time the points were 43 to 9. Nothing but a miracle could save the South — and the only thing in the game approaching a miracle was the manner in which Geelong had in a few weeks converted an apparently hopeless and nerveless twenty, into a slashing team. South Melbourne played a better game in the second hour, but, except for 10 minutes in the last quarter, were always the beaten team — a fact most forcibly shown in the disposition to hang on to the opposing players — always a sign of weakness. To summarise briefly what can only be a sorrowful story for South Melbourne, the Geelong men were better at every point of the game, the marking of such high fliers as young Pontin, Joe McShane, McCallum, and James being very fine, and their drop-kicking such an exhibition as we have not had for years. Geelong in form have ever been a great attraction in Victorian football, and I feel sure I express a popular sentiment in saying that nothing in the season's play will give more general pleasure than their return to the old Geelong excellence. The individual play, as I have said, was very fine, and the names already mentioned show who was chiefly responsible for it. James, however, is entitled to a special line, for his high marking was splendid, and three of Geelong's ten goals were from his foot.

Another feature in the game that greatly pleased the crowd was the plucky way in which their less experienced forwards, Coles, Holligan, and a colt named Barling, stood up to the veteran backs, who guarded the Southern goal. McGuire and Southern had some fine battles on the wing. McCallum in the centre, was too fast for Waugh, but on the other wing that rare little player, Howson, beat his man handsomely. Amongst the Geelong backs, Thompson surprised everyone by suddenly developing the fine form which he seemed for so long to have lost. The men who follow the ball for South Melbourne were, of course, not idle, and Geelong people thought that McKay had long got past the kind of football he showed them on Saturday, though we in Melbourne of course know otherwise. Purdy, Gibson, and Pleass, were all honest workers though the pace was often faster than they liked it. Windley played exceptionally well in the first half, when his side was having such a bad time. O'Hara was perhaps the best of the backs, Adamson being soon at his best, when turned loose on the ball in the last quarter. He went in with splendid dash, and in about five minutes had scored two goals for South Melbourne. Their forwards were outmatched by the Geelong backs, as the score unmistakably shows, but Gilligan, Blackwood, and Burns, all played a fair game. Hood, as umpire, gave the players lots of rein, and kept the pace as fast as anybody wanted it.

SECOND SEMI FINALS 1931-2016

1931	MCG	Richmond	15.9 (99)	Geelong	10.6 (66)	49,056
1932	MCG	Richmond	18.16 (124)	Carlton	14.15 (99)	63,326
1933	MCG	South Melbourne	14.11 (95)	Richmond	11.11 (77)	49,303
1934	MCG	Richmond	19.20 (134)	Geelong	7.8 (50)	35,934
1935	MCG	South Melbourne	15.14 (104)	Collingwood	11.17 (83)	53,766
1936	MCG	Collingwood	12.18 (90)	South Melbourne	10.17 (77)	55,623
1937	MCG	Geelong	19.11 (125)	Melbourne	16.17 (113)	47,730
1938	MCG	Carlton	16.17 (113)	Geelong	10.21 (81)	65,332
1939	MCG	Melbourne	15.14 (104)	Collingwood	12.18 (90)	54,446
1940	MCG	Richmond	16.11 (107)	Melbourne	14.17 (101)	54,763
1941	MCG	Melbourne	16.13 (109)	Carlton	11.16 (82)	59,435
1942	Princes Park	Richmond	11.12 (78)	Essendon	8.8 (56)	32,000
1943	Princes Park	Essendon	13.16 (94)	Richmond	9.17 (71)	24,100
1944	Junction Oval	Fitzroy	11.15 (81)	Richmond	10.10 (70)	32,000
1945	Princes Park	South Melbourne	13.10 (88)	Collingwood	11.11 (77)	46,224
1946	MCG	Essendon	14.16 (100)	Collingwood	13.22 (100)	77,370
1946 Replay	MCG	Essendon	10.16 (76)	Collingwood	8.9 (57)	64,903
1947	MCG	Carlton	14.15 (99)	Essendon	11.17 (83)	75,475
1948	MCG	Essendon	13.16 (94)	Melbourne	8.10 (58)	72,394
1949	MCG	Carlton	15.13 (103)	North Melbourne	14.7 (91)	70,856
1950	MCG	Essendon	11.14 (80)	North Melbourne	11.11 (77)	75,433
1951	MCG	Geelong	22.20 (152)	Collingwood	10.10 (70)	74,085
1952	MCG	Geelong	14.16 (100)	Collingwood	6.10 (46)	77,417
1953	MCG	Collingwood	13.12 (90)	Geelong	8.12 (60)	70,292
1954	MCG	Footscray	11.19 (85)	Geelong	8.14 (62)	64,686
1955	MCG	Melbourne	8.8 (56)	Collingwood	6.9 (45)	59,015
1956	MCG	Melbourne	11.14 (80)	Collingwood	8.16 (64)	91,480
1957	MCG	Essendon	12.11 (83)	Melbourne	8.19 (67)	70,232
1958	MCG	Melbourne	11.12 (78)	Collingwood	4.9 (33)	77,350
1959	MCG	Melbourne	11.15 (81)	Carlton	4.13 (37)	72,882
1960	MCG	Melbourne	14.18 (102)	Fitzroy	4.16 (40)	79,796
1961	MCG	Hawthorn	12.8 (80)	Melbourne	11.7 (73)	87,744
1962	MCG	Essendon	14.21 (105)	Geelong	7.17 (59)	95,393
1963	MCG	Geelong	14.17 (101)	Hawthorn	11.16 (82)	91,471
1964	MCG	Melbourne	19.20 (134)	Collingwood	6.9 (45)	93,010
1965	MCG	St Kilda	13.24 (102)	Collingwood	14.17 (101)	98,395
1966	MCG	Collingwood	15.9 (99)	St Kilda	13.11 (89)	95,614
1967	MCG	Richmond	20.21 (141)	Carlton	14.17 (101)	99,051
1968	MCG	Carlton	13.17 (95)	Essendon	8.11 (59)	106,365
1969	MCG	Carlton	16.11 (107)	Collingwood	10.11 (71)	108,544
1970	MCG	Collingwood	17.16 (118)	Carlton	17.6 (108)	112,838
1971	MCG	Hawthorn	12.18 (90)	St Kilda	12.16 (88)	99,822
1972	Waverley	Carlton	8.13 (61)	Richmond	8.13 (61)	54,338
1972 Replay	MCG	Richmond	15.20 (110)	Carlton	9.15 (69)	92,670
1973	Waverley	Carlton	15.17 (107)	Collingwood	12.15 (87)	60,072
1974	Waverley	Richmond	10.13 (73)	North Melbourne	6.16 (52)	57,569
1975	Waverley	Hawthorn	12.10 (82)	North Melbourne	10.11 (71)	52,076
1976	Waverley	Hawthorn	12.15 (87)	Carlton	9.16 (70)	60,105
1977	MCG	Collingwood	17.10 (112)	Hawthorn	16.14 (110)	87,421
1978	Waverley	Hawthorn	12.15 (87)	North Melbourne	10.13 (73)	48,716
1979	Waverley	Carlton	15.21 (111)	North Melbourne	11.7 (73)	69,142
1980	Waverley	Richmond	14.11 (95)	Geelong	11.5 (71)	65,303
1981	Waverley	Carlton	16.17 (113)	Geelong	11.7 (73)	66,078
1982	Waverley	Richmond	16.17 (113)	Carlton	13.12 (90)	65,611
1983	Waverley	Hawthorn	13.10 (88)	North Melbourne	6.12 (48)	41,063
1984	MCG	Hawthorn	16.17 (113)	Essendon	15.15 (105)	76,514

1985	Waverley	Essendon	14.18 (102)	Hawthorn	9.8 (62)	67,063
1986	Waverley	Carlton	16.16 (112)	Hawthorn	13.6 (84)	62,315
1987	Waverley	Carlton	11.14 (80)	Hawthorn	10.5 (65)	64,333
1988	Waverley	Hawthorn	9.12 (66)	Carlton	6.9 (45)	60,052
1989	Waverley	Hawthorn	16.16 (112)	Essendon	11.10 (76)	66,003
1990	MCG	Collingwood	17.15 (117)	Essendon	7.12 (54)	91,555
1991	Waverley	Hawthorn	13.17 (95)	Geelong	13.15 (93)	63,733
1992	MCG	West Coast	20.13 (133)	Geelong	14.11 (95)	71,745
1993	Waverley	Carlton	13.8 (86)	Adelaide	8.20 (68)	59,233
1994	Waverley	West Coast	16.21 (117)	Melbourne	8.4 (52)	53,160
1995	MCG	Richmond	12.14 (86)	Essendon	11.7 (73)	88,308
1996	Gabba	Brisbane Bears	26.14 (170)	Carlton	10.13 (73)	21,767
1997	Football Park	Adelaide	11.10 (76)	Geelong	9.14 (68)	46,101
1998	SCG	Adelaide	14.10 (94)	Sydney	10.7 (67)	37,498
1999	Gabba	Brisbane Lions	19.12 (126)	Western Bulldogs	10.13 (73)	24,045
2000	MCG	Carlton	23.13 (151)	Brisbane Lions	10.9 (69)	56,924
2001	Football Park	Hawthorn	10.12 (72)	Port Adelaide	10.9 (69)	30,613
2002	MCG	Adelaide	20.10 (130)	Melbourne	17.16 (118)	51,533
2003	Gabba	Brisbane Lions	18.16 (124)	Adelaide	12.10 (82)	32,432
2004	MCG	St Kilda	16.11 (107)	Sydney	8.8 (56)	50,671
2005	SCG	Sydney	7.14 (56)	Geelong	7.11 (53)	39,079
2006	Subiaco Oval	Fremantle	14.18 (102)	Melbourne	11.8 (74)	42,505
2007	Subiaco Oval	Collingwood	13.15 (93)	West Coast	10.14 (74)	43,627
2008	MCG	Western Bulldogs	16.10 (106)	Sydney	9.15 (69)	42,731
2009	MCG	Western Bulldogs	16.11 (107)	Brisbane Lions	8.8 (56)	47,030
2010	MCG	Geelong	20.15 (135)	Fremantle	10.6 (66)	45,056
2011	MCG	Hawthorn	19.8 (122)	Sydney	13.8 (86)	55,198
2012	Football Park	Adelaide	12.9 (81)	Fremantle	11.5 (71)	31,742
2013	MCG	Geelong	13.18 (96)	Port Adelaide	12.8 (80)	52,744
2014	MCG	Geelong	13.14 (92)	North Melbourne	14.14 (98)	65,964
2015	MCG	Hawthorn	21.9 (135)	Adelaide	8.13 (61)	70,879
2016	MCG	Hawthorn	12.12 (84)	Western Bulldogs	16.11 (107)	87,823

SECOND SEMI FINALS EXPLAINED

Semi finals were introduced in 1902, the sixth season of the VFL competition. Under what was originally called the "Argus" system, the teams that finished second and fourth at the end of the home and away season played off in the first semi final and the teams that came first and third played off in the second semi final. The winners played off in a final. However, if the team that finished on top, known as the minor premier, was defeated in either the second semi final or the final, it had the right to challenge for the premiership in a grand final.

With minor modifications this system remained in force until 1930, apart from 1924 when the VFL unsuccessfully experimented with a round-robin finals series.

The Page-McIntyre system operated from 1931 to 1971. Under this system the third and fourth-placed sides met in the first semi final with the loser being eliminated. The first and second-placed sides met in the second semi final with the winner proceeding directly to the grand final, while the loser received a second chance in the preliminary final.

With the introduction of the McIntyre final five system in 1972, the first semi final was played between the loser of the qualifying final and the winner of the elimination final. The loser was eliminated and the winner proceeded to the preliminary final. The second semi final was played between the top side at the end of the home and away matches and the winner of the qualifying final. The winner went directly to the grand final while the loser played the winner of the first semi final in the preliminary final.

This system remained in operation until 1990. It was replaced by the complicated McIntyre final six system from 1991 to 1993 and the even more complicated McIntyre final eight system from 1994 to 1999. Under both systems, two semi finals were played in the second week of the finals series.

Under the current final eight system, introduced in 2000, the first semi final is played between the loser of the first qualifying final and the winner of the first elimination final. The second semi final is played between the loser of the second qualifying final and the winner of the second elimination final.

PAST SECOND SEMI FINALS AT THE MCG (1931-2016)

The highest score at the MCG in a second semi final is 22.20 (152) by Geelong against Collingwood 10.10 (70) in 1951. The overall highest score is 26.14 (170) by the Brisbane Bears against Carlton 10.13 (73) at the Gabba in 1996. The highest score in a quarter is 9.6 (60) by Geelong in the last quarter against Collingwood in 1951. This is also the overall second semi final record. The biggest bag of goals is 11 by George Goninon for Geelong against Collingwood in 1951. This is the overall second semi final record. The highest second semi final attendance was recorded on Saturday September 12, 1970 when 112,838 saw Collingwood defeat Carlton by 10 points at the MCG.

Statistics for Geelong v Sydney

Geelong v South Melb./Sydney by venue

	Won by Geelong	Won by Swans	Drawn
Corio Oval	29	14	0
Junction Oval	0	3	0
Kardinia Park	41	20	0
Lake Oval	29	45	0
MCG	0	3	0
SCG	16	13	0
Stadium Australia	3	2	0
Waverley Park	2	0	0
	120	100	0

Highest Score

Geelong	26.11 (167)	Rd 20	1978	Lake Oval
Sydney	24.16 (160)	Rd 3	1998	SCG

Lowest Score

Geelong	3.1 (19)	Rd 6	1899	Lake Oval
South Melb.	1.2 (8)	Rd 3	1898	Corio Oval

Greatest Winning Margin

Geelong	104 points	Rd 12	1976	KP
Sydney	110 points	Rd 11	2014	SCG

Last Match – Round 20, 2017, Kardinia Park

	Sydney	Geelong
Quarter time	7.5	2.3
Half time	10.5	5.6
Three-quarter time	11.9	7.6
Full time	16.11 (107)	8.13 (61)

Most Goals in a Match

14	Gary Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 8	1994	SCG
13	Doug Wade	Geel	Rd 17	1967	LO
10	Jack Graham	S Melb	Rd 8	1948	KP

THE DOUBLE CHANCE AND PREMIERSHIPS

Although the first VFL (now AFL) premiership was decided in 1897, a finals structure involving a double chance (known as the Argus system) was not introduced until 1902. Under this structure, which survived until 1930, second and fourth played in the first week followed by first and third in the second week. The winners then played each other in week three. However, if the top team had lost in either week two or week three, they had the right to challenge the winner of the week three match for the premiership. Under this system, 11 of the 29 premierships were won by teams which had lost a final and subsequently challenged successfully.

The first version of the McIntyre finals system was introduced in 1931. Under this structure, teams three and four played each other in the first week, with the loser being eliminated. In week two, teams one and two played, the winner going into the grand final and the loser, with a double chance, into the preliminary final. The winner of that match then went on to the grand final. Under this system, 23 of the 86 premierships were won by teams which had lost a final. Probably the most significant of these victories was Collingwood's 1958 comeback after losing to Melbourne in the second semi-final. The Magpies went on to win the flag, denying the Demons their fourth premiership on end, which would have equalled Collingwood's 1927-30 premiership record.

In 1972, a final five was introduced, a final six in 1991, and a final eight in 1994. The current final eight structure was put into place in 2001. Since then four teams have won the flag after losing in the first week: Brisbane (2003), Sydney (2005), West Coast (2006) and Hawthorn (2015). Each of them went on to win three successive finals after their initial loss. Since 1972, 13 of the 45 premierships have been won by teams which used their double chance after losing a final.

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, Denis Carroll and Ian Wilkinson with MCC deputy librarian – research Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.

Double Chance Premierships

28.8% of VFL/AFL premierships since 1972 have been won by clubs that have lost a final and required the double chance.

