| AFL 2017 Round 23<br>Collingwood v Melbourne | Melbourne Cricket Club<br>LIBRARY | Saturday<br>August 26, 2017<br>FACT SHEET |
|---|---|---|

## THE FINAL ROUND OF THE 1976 SEASON

Collingwood and Melbourne's final round clash at Victoria Park in 1976 was an important game for both clubs with Melbourne striving for their first final appearance since 1964 and Collingwood trying to avoid the "wooden spoon" for the first time in VFL history. After a loss to Hawthorn in Round 18 Melbourne was in tenth position on the ladder with seven wins. They then struck form, however, defeating Richmond, St Kilda and Geelong in the next three rounds to sit just one game out of the final five going into the final round of matches. Melbourne had a better percentage than the fifth-placed Footscray and a win over the Magpies, and loss to the top-placed Carlton by the Bulldogs, would put Melbourne into the finals. The Demons would have already been in the top five had Footscray not scored a one-point win over Fitzroy in Round 21 after trailing for most of the day.

After defeating Carlton in Round 12 Collingwood had suffered an eight-game losing streak and they were on the bottom of the ladder. A win over Essendon in Round 21 had given them hope that they might avoid the wooden spoon, however. A win over Melbourne in Round 22 and a loss by Fitzroy would put them ahead of the Lions. The Magpies started their Round 22 match with the Demons well and were ahead by nine points at half-time. Melbourne then kicked eight goals to one in the third quarter to hold a six-goal lead at the final change. The Magpies out-scored the Demons in the final quarter but Melbourne still ran out winners by 15 points. The final scores were Melbourne 18.20 (128) to Collingwood 17. 11 (113).

Although Melbourne seemed safe against Collingwood following their dominant third quarter, their chances of making the finals looked slim when Footscray played some great football against Carlton to lead by 22 points at three-quarter time. The Blues turned things around in the final term, however, and they were only three points behind the Bulldogs with just a few minutes to play. The Blues attacked relentlessly towards the end of the game but only three behinds resulted before the siren and the game ended in a draw. This was enough for Footscray to keep their place in the top five and Melbourne would have to wait until 1987 to end their finals drought.

The Magpies finished the 1976 season on the bottom of the ladder with six wins. Fitzroy's win over Essendon in Round 22 put them one game and percentage clear of the Pies. Under new coach Tommy Hafey, Collingwood's fortunes took a turn for the better in 1977 with the Magpies making it all the way the grand final. They eventually lost to North Melbourne by 27 points in a replay after the first grand final produced only the second draw in VFL history. Melbourne, on the other hand, could not reproduce their 1976 form and finished 11th on the ladder with five wins.

## OVER TO YOU

1. In which season was Lou Richards Collingwood's premiership captain?
2. In which season was Ronald James Barassi Snr selected in a Melbourne premiership team?
3. During the upheaval when Norm Smith was sacked and reinstated as coach in 1965, who coached the Demons for one match in Round 13 that season?
4. In 1903, Fitzroy played Collingwood in the first-ever League match played for premiership points outside Victoria. At which venue did this game take place?
5. In which season did Melbourne and Collingwood play the first drawn final?
6. What award did Adrian Battiston, Les Bamblett, Paul Callery and Greg Healy win playing with Melbourne at Under 19 level?
7. Who am I? I was a champion rover and forward with Collingwood in 183 games from 1909 to 1920. I played in the 1910 premiership and led the Magpies to the premiership in 1917. From 1921 to 1924 I played 51 games for Melbourne and was captain-coach from 1921 to 1923.
8. Albert "Leeter" Collier won the Brownlow Medal in 1929. The following year his brother, Harry, tied for the medal but lost on a countback. He was eventually awarded a retrospective Brownlow in 1989. Who did he tie with and who was the original winner on countback?
9. Name the years that Jock McHale coached Collingwood to the premiership.
10. Name the years Norm Smith coached Melbourne to the premiership.

## FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website: http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll and Ian Wilkinson with MCC deputy librarian – research Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.

## THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 22 ON THE MCG

Round 23 was first played in 1991 with the introduction of a 24-round season to compensate for a bye in the fixture caused by the inclusion of Adelaide. In 1992 and 1994, 24-round seasons were also played. The 1995 addition of Fremantle eliminated the bye and the AFL returned to a 22-round season. Following Gold Coast's entry into the AFL in 2011, a 24-round season was again played to compensate for a bye. Despite an even number of teams competing from 2012, a staggered mid-season bye meant Round 23 (but not Round 24) has been retained. The highest score in Round 23 at the MCG is 25.10 (160) by North Melbourne against Fitzroy 10.14 (74) in 1994. The 86-point margin is the biggest for this round at the MCG. The overall Round 23 highest score is 27.12 (174) by St Kilda against Brisbane Bears 7.12 (54) at Moorabbin in 1991.The winning margin of 120 points is the greatest for this round. The only drawn match at the MCG in Round 23 was when Richmond and Port Adelaide drew 16.10 (106) apiece in 2012. The biggest bag of goals at the MCG in Round 23 is six by Richmond's Jack Riewoldt against Port Adelaide in 2012. The overall Round 23 goalkicking record is 11 by Adelaide's Scott Hodges against Geelong at Football Park in 1992. The biggest Round 23 attendance at the MCG is 60,979 for the Essendon v Richmond match in 2013. The overall Round 23 record was set in 1992 when 77,357 saw the Carlton v Collingwood clash at Waverley Park.

## Statistics for Collingwood v Melbourne

***Collingwood v Melbourne by venue***

| | Won by Collingwood | Won by Melbourne | Drawn |
|---|---|---|---|
| Albert Park | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| MCG | 79 | 58 | 3 |
| Punt Road | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Victoria Park | 56 | 19 | 2 |
| Waverley | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| | 146 | 83 | 5 |

***Highest Score***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Collingwood | 27.11 (173) | Rd 2 | 1996 | MCG |
| Melbourne | 25.18 (168) | Rd 20 | 1982 | VP |

***Lowest Score***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Collingwood | 2.2 (14) | GF | 1960 | MCG |
| Melbourne | 1.5 (11) | Rd 10 | 1898 | VP |

***Greatest Winning Margin***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Collingwood | 109 points | Rd 15 | 1919 | MCG |
| Melbourne | 94 points | Rd 10 | 1939 | MCG |

***Most Goals in a Match***

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Gordon Coventry | Coll | Rd 18 | 1933 | VP |
| 10 | George Margitich | Melb | Rd 18 | 1933 | VP |
| 10 | Peter McKenna | Coll | Rd 6 | 1971 | MCG |
| 10 | Saverio Rocca | Coll | Rd 2 | 1997 | MCG |

***Last Time They Met – Round 12, 2017, MCG***

| | Melbourne | Collingwood |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter time | 4.3 | 3.2 |
| Half time | 6.6 | 10.5 |
| Three-quarter time | 12.9 | 12.5 |
| Full time | 15.14 (104) | 15.10 (100) |

### MELBOURNE VERSUS COLLINGWOOD IN 1897

Melbourne and Collingwood were two of the eight original members of the Victorian Football League (VFL) when it was established in 1897. They met first in VFL competition on June 19 in Round 6 of the 1897 season at the MCG. Melbourne's more accurate kicking proved to be the difference between the sides with the Redlegs scoring five straight goals in the first three quarters to lead by 14 points at the final change. Melbourne did not score a goal in the final quarter but ran-out winners by seven points, the final scores being Melbourne 5.3 (33) to Collingwood 3.8 (26). Jack Leith kicked three of Melbourne's five goals.

In the return match at Collingwood's Victoria Park on July 31, the Magpies kicked five goals to Melbourne's one in the second quarter to lead by 19 points at half-time. Collingwood did not score another goal for the game but Melbourne could manage only one and lost the match by 15 points. The final scores were Collingwood 5.13 (43) to Melbourne 3.10 (28). Archie Smith, who kicked two goals for Collingwood, was the only multiple goal-kicker in the game.

At the end of the 1897 home-and-away matches Melbourne were in third position on the ladder with ten wins and four losses, and Collingwood in fourth place with nine wins and five losses. The finals were played as a round-robin series of matches between the top four teams (Essendon, Geelong, Melbourne and Collingwood). Collingwood and Melbourne met in the first week of the finals at the MCG. Collingwood led all day but Melbourne finished strongly to fall just four points short of victory – Collingwood 7.9 (51) to Melbourne 7.5 (47). Harry Dowdall kicked two goals for the Magpies and Jack Leigh booted four for the Redlegs. Melbourne lost all their finals matches, while Collingwood's victory over them was their only win. Essendon won the inaugural VFL premiership by winning all their finals matches, while Geelong finished runners-up.

**OVER TO YOU ANSWERS:** **Q1** 1953. **Q2** 1940. **Q3** Frank "Checker" Hughes. **Q4** Sydney Cricket Ground. **Q5** 1928. **Q6** Morrish Medal. **Q7** Percy Wilson. **Q8** Stan Judkins (Richmond) and Allan Hopkins (Footscray); Judkins was originally awarded the medal on countback. **Q9** 1917, 1919, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1935 and 1936. **Q10** 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1964.