



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

## AFL 2021 ROUND 20 COLLINGWOOD V WEST COAST

## LIBRARY FACT SHEET JULY 31, 2021

### COLLINGWOOD 1954–1958

In 1950 Phonse Kyne had been appointed as Jock McHale's successor in the most controversial of circumstances (see Round 1 Fact Sheet). He then had to find a way to beat the record breaking Geelong sides of 1951-53 (Round 17 Fact Sheet). Having achieved that goal, Kyne would face an even more unenviable task with the emergence of the great Melbourne sides coached by Norm Smith. Smith had taken over the reins at Melbourne in 1952, the Demons having finished last in 1951. Jim Cardwell, who would become known as the "Prince of Secretaries", had been appointed to the position in 1951. An astute judge of talent, he would provide Smith with a constant flow of outstanding recruits. For example, among the newcomers in 1953 were future multiple premierships players Ron Barassi, Frank "Bluey" Adams, Don Williams, Geoff Case, Peter Marquis and Ken Melville. In 1954 Brian Dixon, Laurie Mithen, "Big" Bob Johnson, Ian Ridley and Clyde Laidlaw played their first games. Then followed Trevor Johnson and Athol Webb in 1955 and Geoff Tunbridge, John Lord and Ian Thorogood in 1957. These were not just good players; most of them were stars.

In **1954** the Magpies began their quest for back to back premierships with five straight victories, bringing their winning sequence to 14. Optimism was high, but the rest of that year's campaign proved to be a disappointment, the club missing the finals by one game and percentage after losing their last four matches. Kyne knew that this was a season of lost opportunities as his team had not been beaten by either of the eventual grand finalists, Footscray and Melbourne, during the home and away rounds. Among the newcomers in **1955** were Ray Gabelich, Harry Sullivan, Ken Smale and Bob Greve. After a stuttering start the Magpies put together seven wins on end, including a hard fought victory over the highly fancied Demons in Round 11. They then won five of their last seven games to take second spot on the ladder behind Melbourne. The second semi final was a muddy slog which the Demons won by 11 points. Collingwood then beat Geelong by 12 points to gain a grand final berth. Melbourne's inaccuracy kept Collingwood in the grand final, but the Demons eventually drew away to take the flag by 28 points.

The recruiters had done well in putting together the crop of young players who began their careers at Collingwood in **1956**. Among them were Ian Brewer, Graeme Fellowes, Brian Gray, Bill Serong and Ken Turner. The Magpies would win 13 games to take second place on the ladder on percentage from Geelong. Melbourne finished on top with 16 wins from 18 matches. The second semi final was a tight struggle, the Magpies leading by a point after three quarters, but Melbourne then kicked 3.5 to Collingwood's 0.6 to win by 16 points. The following week the Magpies beat Footscray to claim a grand final berth. Then, in front of a crowd of 115,902, the Demons took the flag by a crushing 73 points.

Among those who debuted for the Magpies in **1957** were John Henderson, Ken Bennett, Mike Delanty and Ron Reeves. Although they played a draw with Melbourne at Victoria Park in Round 13, the team's form was patchy throughout the season and they missed the finals. The Demons topped the ladder and went on to thrash Essendon by 61 points in the grand final to complete a hat trick of premierships.

Phonse Kyne was faced with an enormous problem in **1958**. How could he stop the Melbourne juggernaut from equalling the four premierships on end achieved by legendary Collingwood teams between 1927 and 1930? In the event, part of the answer would be provided by one of that season's newcomers, Barry Harrison. Others to debut that year included Kevin Rose, Brian Beers and Errol Hutchesson. After the disappointing showing in 1957, the Magpies bounced back in 1958 to take the vital second spot from Fitzroy on percentage. Ominously, however, Melbourne had finished three games clear on top. The second semi final went to script, the Demons winning the match by 45 points. After major changes were made to the team for the preliminary final, Collingwood led all day to beat North Melbourne by 20 points.

The Magpies were considered by most pundits to be rank outsiders to win the grand final, but Phonse Kyne had a plan which revolved around distracting Melbourne's star players from the task at hand. By the first break, however, the Demons had kicked 5.5 to Collingwood's 2.2 and the writing seemed to be on the wall for the Magpie supporters. Acting captain Murray Weideman then decided to throw his weight around, and Barry "Hooker" Harrison worked on distracting Ron Barassi. The Demons fell into the trap and began playing the man. Suddenly the momentum shifted Collingwood's way and by half time they had hit the front. Rattled, the Demons kicked just two behinds in the third quarter to the Magpies' 5.3, and then could not make up the leeway in the final quarter. Phonse Kyne had engineered his club's most famous victory, his team ensuring that the Magpies' four in a row record remained intact.

## This Round in History – Round 20 on the MCG

The highest Round 20 score at the MCG is 32.24 (216) by Hawthorn against Essendon 8.8 (56) in 1992. This is the overall record Round 20 score. The most goals by an individual at the MCG in Round 20 is 12. This record is shared by two players. Gary Ablett kicked a dozen for Geelong against Richmond in 1990. The Cats scored 24.14 (158) and won by 64 points. Jason Dunstall also kicked 12 goals for Hawthorn against Essendon in 1992. The overall Round 20 record is 13 shared by Doug Wade for Geelong against North Melbourne at Kardinia Park in 1971 when Geelong kicked 24.7 (151) and won by 75 points, and Peter Daicos for Collingwood against Brisbane at Carrara in 1991. Collingwood kicked 26.16 (172) and won by 101 points. The highest score in a quarter is 10.3 (63) by Melbourne in the third quarter against North Melbourne in 1991. Melbourne finished with 20.20 (140) to win by 52 points. The overall Round 20 record is 11.6 (72) by Collingwood in the third quarter against Essendon at Victoria Park in 1970. Collingwood kicked 24.16 (160) to win by 81 points. The highest Round 20 attendance at the MCG was recorded at a night game on Friday August 5, 1994 when 75,565 saw Collingwood defeat Essendon by 28 points.

## Statistics for Collingwood v West Coast

### *Collingwood v West Coast by venue*

	Won by Collingwood	Won by West Coast	Draw
Docklands	5	3	0
MCG	11	4	0
Perth Stadium	2	3	0
Subiaco	4	12	0
Victoria Park	3	4	0
WACA	0	3	0
Waverley	1	1	1
	26	30	1

### *Highest Score*

Collingwood	26.17 (173)	Rd 12	2001	Dock
Collingwood	27.11 (173)	Rd 10	2008	MCG
West Coast	19.23 (137)	Rd 10	1987	Subi

### *Lowest Score*

Collingwood	7.9 (51)	Rd 21	1988	Subi
West Coast	5.9 (39)	Rd 22	2013	MCG

### *Greatest Winning Margin*

Collingwood	100 points	Rd 10	2008	MCG
West Coast	81 points	Rd 17	1991	Subi

### *Last Time They Met – Round 5, 2021, Perth Stadium*

	West Coast	Collingwood
Quarter time	3.1	5.4
Half time	9.5	7.5
Three-quarter time	14.6	7.7
Full time	16.7 (103)	11.10 (76)

### **FACTSHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE**

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

<http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Collingwood's first match against the Eagles was played at Subiaco Oval in Round 10, 1987. West Coast dominated that match, the final margin being 57 points. John Annear, who had previously played 43 games with the Magpies and 65 with Richmond, collected 26 possessions and kicked three goals. Geoff Miles, who had played 30 games with Collingwood, was also a member of the Eagles' team. The second meeting came in Round 4, 1988, this match being played at Victoria Park. Three Western Australians, Michael Christian, Craig Starcevich and Brian Taylor, were members of the Collingwood team which led at every change and won by 39 points.

The first final between Collingwood and West Coast was the 1990 Qualifying Final played at Waverley Park. The Magpies should have been well in front at half time, but because of their inaccuracy they led by just two goals. By the final break their lead had been reduced to two points. Fortunes ebbed and flowed during a thrilling last quarter, and with just minutes remaining the Magpies held a two point lead. Then a shot by the Eagles' Chris Waterman missed narrowly. West Coast attacked again and full forward Peter Sumich marked with thirty seconds left. From a tight angle and on the "wrong" side for a left footer, Sumich could only manage a behind. The siren sounded immediately with the teams locked together on 13.12 (90). The Magpies won the replay easily, kicking 19.12 (126) to the Eagles' 9.13 (67). Ten Collingwood players kicked goals that day, including Gavin Brown and Peter Daicos who both bagged four.

These clubs have played each other in a further seven finals matches - 1994, 2007/11/12/18 (two) and 2020, Collingwood being successful in four of those. Overall these two clubs have met 56 times, West Coast winning 29 of those matches, Collingwood 26 and one game has been drawn. The Eagles have averaged 91 points per match to Collingwood's 87.

**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 – research Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.**