



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 15 COLLINGWOOD V ADELAIDE

LIBRARY FACT SHEET JUNE 25, 2023

NEVER FORGIVE, NEVER FORGET

Collingwood's Team of the Century was announced in 1997. Champion high flying forward Ron Todd was not chosen in the team, but his record suggested that he should have been an automatic selection at centre half forward. Todd joined Collingwood in 1935, playing brilliantly at centre half forward for three seasons until the great full forward Gordon Coventry retired at the end of 1937. Todd had kicked 62 goals in 1937, but when he took over the full forward position he kicked 120 goals in 1938 and 121 in 1939, averaging six goals per game. However, after the 1939 season, at the age of 22, Todd accepted a very lucrative offer from VFA club Williamstown and never played for the Magpies again. Collingwood officials, and especially coach Jock McHale, were incensed by Todd's decision and never forgave him. The *Age* journalist Trevor Grant wrote an article in 2013, giving an insider's view of Todd's controversial omission:

"Ron Todd deserved his place in Collingwood's Team of the Century, which was chosen in 1997. Sadly, though, this never happened, not because he wasn't deemed good enough, but because of a family grudge that had lasted almost 60 years. The selectors - Kevin Rose (chairman), Eddie McGuire, Ron Richards, John McHale and myself - chose Todd at centre half forward when we met. But the 1958 premiership captain, Murray Weideman, appears at centre half forward while Todd is not in the team. The reason is that the then 82-year-old John McHale, a former player, committeeman and, most importantly, son of the fabled Collingwood coach Jock McHale, had objected strongly to Rose after the meeting about Todd being in the team. When I arrived back at my office after the selections had been supposedly finalised, I received a phone call from Rose telling me that McHale, who had said little at the meeting, wanted no part of Todd being in the team. I was shocked but in the end any objection was useless. A Collingwood man carrying the name McHale was always going to have his way. I was informed that Todd had been replaced by Weideman."

ADELAIDE'S SECOND AFL PREMIERSHIP

Having won their first flag in 1997, the Adelaide Crows began the 1998 season sluggishly, winning just three of their first eight matches. They went on to win a total of 13 home and away games, finishing in fifth place behind North Melbourne (16 wins), Western Bulldogs (15), Sydney (14) and Melbourne (14). Surely, most pundits agreed, Adelaide could not repeat its 1997 success from fifth spot.

The Crows appeared to be a spent force after Melbourne beat them by 48 points in a qualifying final at the MCG. But the finals system in place at the time gave the fifth team a double chance. The Crows then hit top form with a comfortable win against Sydney at the SCG and a thrashing of the Western Bulldogs in a preliminary final. North Melbourne also qualified for the grand final.

The Kangaroos entered the decider as firm favourites, especially as they had defeated Adelaide twice during the season, but inaccurate kicking would prove to be their downfall on grand final day. North probably should have been ten goals in front at half time, but after scoring 2.11 in the second quarter to Adelaide's 1.1, they had left the door ajar. North would kick just 2.7 in the second half, the Crows hitting the front before the final change and then drawing away to take the 1998 flag by 35 points.



This Round in History – Round 15 on the MCG

The highest Round 15 score on the MCG is 27.20 (182) by Essendon against Melbourne 8.12 (60) in 1986. The overall Round 15 record is 28.23 (191) by Hawthorn against Geelong 13.6 (84) at Princes Park in 1977. The most goals by an individual is 11 by Peter Sumich for West Coast against Essendon in 1992 and by Gary Ablett Snr for Geelong against Melbourne in 1993. The overall Round 15 record is 12 which has been recorded by three players – Bob Pratt for South Melbourne against Footscray at the Lakeside Oval in 1934, Peter Hudson for Hawthorn against St Kilda at Glenferrie Oval in 1971 and Simon Beasley for Footscray against Melbourne at the Western Oval in 1985. The highest score in a quarter is 10.5 (65) by Richmond in the last quarter against Hawthorn in 1997. Richmond kicked 22.13 (145) to win by 76 points. The overall Round 15 record for the highest score in a quarter is 12.6 (78) by Geelong against Brisbane at Carrara in 1989. Geelong kicked 22.19 (151) to win by 74 points after leading by only 21 points at three-quarter time. The highest Round 15 attendance at the MCG is 81,099 in 1960 when Melbourne defeated Collingwood by 46 points. This is the overall Round 15 record.

Collingwood v Adelaide

Collingwood v Adelaide by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Adelaide	Drawn
Adelaide Oval	6	2	0
Docklands	3	4	0
Football Park	9	6	0
MCG	8	3	1
Victoria Park	6	0	0
	32	15	1

Highest Score

Collingwood	23.22 (160)	Rd 15	1991	VP
Adelaide	22.19 (151)	Rd 21	2005	FP

Lowest Score

Collingwood	5.9 (39)	Rd 21	1997	FP
Adelaide	5.7 (37)	Rd 15	1991	VP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	123 points	Rd 15	1991	VP
Adelaide	110 points	Rd 21	2005	FP

Last Time They Met – Round 7, 2023, Adelaide Oval

	Collingwood	Adelaide
Quarter time	0.2	3.6
Half time	3.4	3.10
Three-quarter time	5.5	6.15
Full time	8.11 (59)	7.16 (58)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

10	Saverio Rocca	Coll	Rd 13	1995	MCG
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DID YOU KNOW?

- These clubs have played each other 48 times, Collingwood winning 32 of those games, Adelaide 15 and one match was drawn. They have met in three finals, the Magpies winning all of those.
- Collingwood joined the VFA in 1892, its foundation year, and was then a founding member of the VFL in 1897. Adelaide joined the AFL in 1991.
- Gordon Coventry headed Collingwood's goal kicking 16 times, Dick Lee 11 times and Peter McKenna eight times. Taylor Walker has headed Adelaide's list six times, Tony Modra five times and Eddie Betts and Scott Welsh four times.
- Collingwood has had five premiership coaches: George Angus, Jock McHale, Phonse Kyne, Leigh Matthews and Mick Malthouse. Malcolm Blight is Adelaide's only premiership coach.
- Collingwood's longest serving captain is Scott Pendlebury who led the team in 206 matches, and Adelaide's is Mark Ricciuto (142 matches).
- Three Collingwood players have won the Norm Smith Medal for best on the ground in a grand final: Tony Shaw, Nathan Buckley and Scott Pendlebury. Adelaide's Andrew McLeod won the medal twice.
- Collingwood has played in 44 grand finals, winning 15 of those. Adelaide has played in three grand finals, winning two.

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, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick, with MCC deputy librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL