



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 1 MELBOURNE V WESTERN BULLDOGS

LIBRARY FACT SHEET MARCH 18, 2023

GREAT GOAL-KICKING PERFORMANCES BETWEEN THE CLUBS

- Norm Smith (Melbourne) kicked 12 goals against Footscray in Round 17, 1941, at the MCG. Remarkably he had 22 scoring shots for 12 goals 10 behinds. Final scores were: Melbourne 17.20 (122) defeated Footscray 16.9 (105).
- Fred Fanning, in Round 12, 1943, against Footscray at Punt Road Oval, kicked 11 goals. Final scores were: Melbourne 23.16 (154) defeated Footscray 11.8 (74).
- Fred Fanning, at the Western Oval, in Round 18, 1947, kicked 10 goals against Footscray. Final scores were: Melbourne 24.11 (155) defeated Footscray 11.14 (80). The next week he kicked the League record of 18 goals against St Kilda.
- Garry Lyon, the Melbourne forward and captain, kicked 10 goals against the Western Bulldogs in 1994. This was in the semi-final which was won by Melbourne 21.18 (144) to Western Bulldogs 9.11 (65).
- Simon Beasley kicked accurately for Footscray against Melbourne in 1985. The Bulldog spearhead in Round 15 at the Western Oval, kicked 12.3 goals. Final scores were: Footscray 26.13 (169) to Melbourne 6.13 (49).

PLAYERS WHO APPEARED WITH BOTH THE DEMONS AND THE BULLDOGS

Brian Wilson came to VFL football from Braybrook. He appeared with four clubs, playing his first VFL match when aged 16. He played nine games and kicked five goals for Footscray in 1978 and 1979, but after coach Royce Hart suggested he spend a season at Under 19 level, he transferred to North Melbourne. At North he improved his fitness and played in 39 games in 1980 and 1981. He is best remembered as a Melbourne player. There he won the Brownlow Medal in his first season as a Demon, and played 154 games (208 goals) from 1982 to 1990. He led Melbourne's goal-kicking in 1985, played in the 1988 Grand Final and represented Victoria in 1982, 1983 and 1988. He finished his career with seven matches for St Kilda in 1991. This included the Round 3 match against the Demons when he kicked six goals. Wilson lost his 1982 Brownlow Medal when moving house. This was the medal he hoped to give his first daughter on her 21st birthday.

Bob Spargo Snr was a centreman recruited to Footscray from Riverside in the Footscray District Football League. He played 65 games (6 goals) for the Bulldogs from 1934 to 1941. During those years he represented Victoria. In 1941 he briefly played with Williamstown (VFA). Spargo was a talented athlete who finished third in the 1936 and 1940 Stawell Gifts. He played two matches at Melbourne in 1942, in Round 2 (against Richmond) and Round 3 (against Fitzroy). He was 175 cm (5'9") in height and weighed 69kg (152lb). His sons, Bob Spargo Jnr and Ricky Spargo, both represented Footscray, Bob Jnr in 80 games (43 goals) from 1958 to 1963. Ricky played 64 games (65 goals) as a Bulldog from 1966 to 1971. The third generation of the Spargo family to play League football was Paul Spargo, who played 81 games (109 goals) for North Melbourne (1985-92) and nine matches (9 goals) for the Brisbane Bears (1993). Ricky was originally from Albury where he returned to coach, taking the club to premierships in the Ovens and Murray Football League in 1995, 1996, 2009, 2010 and 2011. The fourth generation of this footballing family is Charlie Spargo, the son of Kate and Paul Spargo. He is a small forward at 173cm (5'8") and weighing 71kg (157 lb). He was recruited to the Demons from Murray Bushrangers (TAC Cup), and has currently played 83 games with Melbourne kicking 53 goals. He was a member of the Demons 2021 premiership side.

BROTHERS WHO PLAYED WITH BOTH CLUBS

A defender or ruckman, Bill Scanlan joined Melbourne from Sandringham Central. He played with the Demons from 1943 to 1948 in 51 games with 22 goals. He saw service with the RAAF in World War II. Bill moved to Footscray from 1949 to 1953, appearing in 72 games and kicking 34 goals. His younger brother, Frank Scanlan, was also recruited from Sandringham Central. He played with Melbourne in 1943-1944 and 1947-1948 in 33 games (13 goals). During World War II he served in the R.A.N. He moved to Footscray in 1949 for 18 games (13 goals). He captained/coached Port Fairy for two seasons (1950-51), then played a season with Sandringham (VFA) in 1952 and finished his football career at Tocumwal in 1953.

This Round in History – Round 1 on the MCG

The MCG has witnessed some big wins in Round 1. The biggest was Geelong's 127-point victory over Melbourne in 1996. This bettered Melbourne's 105-point win over South Melbourne in 1971. The Cats' score of 27.21 (183) in 1996 is also the best Round 1 score on the MCG. The best score in one quarter was by Essendon which kicked 11.3 (69) during the second quarter against Melbourne in 1935. Drawn games have figured prominently in Round 1 over the years. However, only one has taken place on the MCG, when Melbourne drew with Sydney 11.18 (84) apiece on March 27, 2011. The highest tally of goals kicked in Round 1 on the MCG was 12 by Essendon's Ted Freyer against Melbourne in 1935. The top attendance for a Round 1 game at the MCG is 90,151 for the Carlton-Richmond game in 2018.

Statistics for Melbourne v Footscray/Western Bulldogs

Melbourne v Footscray/Western Bulldogs by venue

	Won by Melbourne	Won by Bulldogs	Drawn
Carrara	0	1	0
Docklands	9	11	0
MCG	47	29	0
Perth Stadium	1	0	0
Princes Park	0	5	0
Punt Road	2	2	0
Waverley Park	4	1	0
Western Oval	28	31	1
	91	80	1

Highest Score

Melbourne	23.21 (159)	Rd 9	1984	Wav
Footscray	26.13 (169)	Rd 15	1985	WO

Lowest Score

Melbourne	3.9 (27)	Rd 8	1932	WO
Footscray	3.6 (24)	Rd 11	1963	WO

Greatest Winning Margin

Melbourne	80 points	Rd 12	1943	PR
Footscray	120 points	Rd 15	1985	WO

Last Time They Met – Round 19, 2022, Docklands

	Bulldogs	Melbourne
Quarter time	4.0	6.3
Half time	9.2	11.5
Three-quarter time	12.6	14.7
Full time	17.8 (110)	15.10 (100)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	Norm Smith	Melb	Rd 17	1941	MCG
12	Simon Beasley	Foots	Rd 15	1985	WO
11	Fred Fanning	Melb	Rd 12	1943	PR
10	Fred Fanning	Melb	Rd 18	1947	WO
10	Ron Grove	Foots	Rd 5	1946	PR

VFL/AFL GAME 3000 AT THE MCG

This evening's game is the 3000th League match at the MCG. To recognise this milestone, tonight's Fact Sheet looks at the 1000th and the 2000th VFL/AFL games played here, at the Home of Footy.

VFL/AFL GAME 1000 AT THE MCG

July 6, 1974, Melbourne v Richmond VFL Round 14

This encounter between the MCG's co-tenants was a blow-out. A crowd of 21,146 attended this match between the VFL's reigning premier in Richmond and the bottom-placed Demons. Although Melbourne kept pace with the Tigers during the first quarter, being just four points down at quarter time, by half time Richmond had opened up a 27 point gap. The Tigers ultimately won by 63 points, 23.15 (153) to 11.24 (90). Robert Lamb booted six goals for the Tigers.

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>

VFL/AFL GAME 2000 AT THE MCG

September 8, 2001, Carlton v Adelaide AFL First Elimination Final

The 2000th VFL/AFL match at the 'G took place in the first week of the 2001 finals. The fifth-placed Carlton hosted the eighth-placed Crows before 53,982 spectators. The Blues began the game strongly, establishing a 22-point margin at quarter time and were never headed. They ultimately defeated Adelaide by 68 points, 17.16 (118) to 6.14 (50). Matthew Lappin kicked five goals for the Blues.

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.