



# MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

## MAY 3, 2025

### AFL 2025 ROUND 8

### COLLINGWOOD V GEELONG

#### THEIR EARLY GRAND FINALS

Of Geelong's first seven grand final appearances, five were against Collingwood. The first of these was in 1925 when 64,288 fans saw Geelong, who had lost only two matches during the home and away season, lead at every change and get up by 10 points with Cliff Rankin being their only multiple goalkicker with five goals.

**1925 – Geelong 10.19 (79) defeated Collingwood 9.15 (69)**

Five years later, in 1930, they met again for the flag. This time Gordon Coventry, with seven goals, and the Magpies kicking eight goals to Geelong's one behind in the third quarter, saw the 'Pies run out thirty-point winners.

**1930 – Collingwood 14.16 (100) defeated Geelong 9.16 (70)**

Seven years later, in 1937, a then huge crowd of 88,540 saw the teams face off again. In what many have described as one of the greatest grand finals in VFL/AFL history, Geelong, with Jack Evans kicking six goals and Clive Coles and Jack Metherell kicking four each, defeated Collingwood by 32 points, with Ron Todd kicking four goals and Coventry three for the Magpies.

**1937 – Geelong 18.14 (122) defeated Collingwood 12.18 (90)**

Fifteen years later, in 1952, Geelong, the then reigning premiers, faced Collingwood in front of 82,890 fans on the last Saturday in September. The Cats lead at every change and run out easy winners by 46 points with George Goninon kicking five goals and the Magpies only kicking a total of five goals for the afternoon.

**1952 – Geelong 13.8 (86) defeated Collingwood 5.10 (40)**

The two sides showed their strength throughout the next season with the Cats winning 15 of their 18 games and the Magpies winning 14. The Cats lost by 30 points to Collingwood in the second semi final but beat Footscray to make it through to another grand final against the Magpies. Goninon had been omitted from the side for off-field indiscretions, and this was to prove the difference, with the 'Pies leading at every change to take the premiership by 12 points. Keith Batchelor was Collingwood's leading goalkicker with four, and Bob Davis led Geelong's total with three.

**1953 – Collingwood 11.11 (77) defeated Geelong 8.17 (65)**

#### WHAT YEAR WAS THAT?

Can you name the year in which Gary Dempsey (Footscray) won the Brownlow Medal, Think Big won the Melbourne Cup, Arthur Ashe was the first African American to win Wimbledon and Muhammad Ali won the "Thrilla in Manila".

#### PLAYED FOR BOTH

**Travis Varcoc** came to Geelong from SANFL side Central Districts via the 2005 National Draft, being given the famous number five guernsey, previously worn by Cats' legends Polly Farmer and Gary Ablett senior. He made his debut in 2006 and played 138 games (130 goals) for the Cats including in the club's 2007 VFL premiership side and its 2009 and 2011 AFL premiership sides. In 2014 he was traded to the Magpies where he played a total of 92 games (41 goals) from 2015 to 2020. He was selected in the Indigenous All-Stars side in 2009 and the Australian International side in 2010. Collingwood's 2019 indigenous guernsey was designed by Travis's sister-in-law in memory of his sister who had died after an on-field collision in the Adelaide Footy League grand final.

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#### FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

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

## THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 8 ON THE MCG

The highest score in Round 8 at the MCG is 25.17 (167) by Richmond against Footscray 17.15 (117) in 1981. The overall Round 8 record is 33.21 (219) by the Brisbane Bears in beating Sydney 8.9 (57) at the Gabba in 1993. The highest score in a quarter for Round 8 on the MCG is 10.5 (65) by Fitzroy against Richmond in the third quarter in 1992. The overall record is 12.5 (77) by North Melbourne in the third quarter against Footscray at Arden Street in 1983. The most goals by an individual in Round 8 at the MCG is 10. This feat is shared by Melbourne's Fred Fanning against St Kilda in 1947, Jeff Hogg for Richmond against Collingwood in 1991 and Richmond's Matthew Richardson against the Bulldogs in 2004. The overall Round 8 record is 14 by Gary Ablett for Geelong against Sydney at the SCG in 1994. The highest Round 8 attendances have been at the MCG. Top was 85,673 in 1980 when Richmond defeated Carlton 19.24 (138) to 12.13 (85). In 1992, 83,262 fans saw Carlton 16.9 (105) defeat Collingwood 9.18 (72) and 81,550 saw Melbourne 11.16 (82) beat Geelong 4.11 (35) in 1963.

## STATISTICS FOR COLLINGWOOD V GEELONG

### Collingwood v Geelong by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Geelong	Drawn
Corio Oval	22	21	1
Docklands Stadium	2	2	0
East Melb. CG	1	1	0
Gabba	0	1	0
Kardinia Park	22	19	0
MCG	25	31	0
Perth Stadium	1	0	0
Victoria Park	57	25	0
Waverley Park	6	5	0
	136	105	1

### Highest Score

Collingwood	28.16 (184)	Rd 9	1972	VP
Geelong	23.18 (156)	Rd 13	1940	Corio

### Lowest Score

Collingwood	1.4 (10)	Rd 10	1897	Corio
Geelong	3.2 (20)	Rd 13	1902	VP

### Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	102 points	Rd 8	2006	MCG
Geelong	96 points	Rd 24	2011	MCG

### Last Time They Met – Round 18, 2024, MCG

	Collingwood	Geelong
Quarter time	4.5	3.5
Half time	6.8	7.6
Three-quarter time	8.10	10.9
Full time	10.11 (71)	13.13 (91)

### Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 9	1972	VP
11	G. Goninon	Geel	SF2	1951	MCG
11	R. Todd	Coll	PF	1938	MCG

## What Year was That? Answer: 1975

## RON TODD – A COLLINGWOOD LEGEND

Between 1935 and 1939 Collingwood played in five successive grand finals. With a forward line that included the great full forward Gordon Coventry and Ron Todd, who played mainly at centre half forward, this was no surprise. When Coventry retired in 1937, Todd, a speedy highflyer, took over the full forward spot. Todd came to the Magpies from the Victorian Railways side in 1935 and played 76 games (327 goals, an average of 4.3 goals per match) for the club until 1939 when he left, with teammate Des Fothergill, in a sensational move to VFA side, Williamstown. During his time at Collingwood, he played in their 1936 premiership side and was the VFL leading goalkicker in 1938 and 1939. In the 1939 finals series he kicked a total of 23 goals, which record was not broken until 1989 when Gary Ablett senior kicked 27.

At the end of the 1939 season, he accepted a payment of £500 to sign for VFA side Williamstown, a move angering the Magpie fans and hierarchy. A clearance dispute involving the VFL and VFA at the time meant that Todd was able to transfer to the Seagulls without a clearance. The VFL, as a result, handed him a five-year ban, ruining his chances of ever playing for Collingwood again. He was an immediate success at Williamstown, playing 141 games (674 goals) for the side in 1940 and 1941, and from 1945 to 1949, playing alongside former Carlton star Harry "Soapy" Vallence in 1940 and 1941. The VFA went into recess in 1942 during World War II and Todd joined the air force. The competition resumed in 1945 and he played in the club's 1945 and 1949 premiership sides, during which latter season Todd was captain-coach (pictured right by the *Argus* in 1949). He was the VFA's leading goalkicker in 1945 and 1946. He is described in *The Encyclopedia of AFL Footballers* as being "blessed with tremendous pace" and "one of the all-time great forwards". Todd was posthumously inducted into Collingwood's Hall of Fame in 2011 and into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2017.

