



# MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

## AFL 2022 ROUND 1 GEELONG V ESSENDON

## LIBRARY FACT SHEET MARCH 19, 2022

### THE FIRST FINAL

In 1897, the first year of the Victorian Football League, the finals system was somewhat different to today's. The top four teams after the home-and-away rounds played each other once, with the premiership being decided on a points basis after the round robin set of finals.

The first round of these finals in 1897 saw these two sides meet on August 21 at the Geelong Cricket Ground. Geelong started strongly, and in what might be described as a low scoring match, led at three quarter time by 12 points, 2.10 (22) to 1.4 (10). However, in a stunning last quarter, Essendon put on four goals one behind to Geelong's one goal one behind to run out winners by six points: **Essendon 5.5 (35) def. Geelong 3.11 (29)**. Essendon went on to defeat Collingwood and Melbourne to be crowned the VFL's first premiers.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Essendon's legendary full forward John Coleman (right) outscored opposition sides' totals on eight occasions, three times against Hawthorn, three times against St Kilda and once against Collingwood and Fitzroy. On all but one of those occasions he kicked ten or more goals. He kicked 537 goals in 98 games for the Bombers between 1949 and 1954 and led Essendon's goalkicking in all those years.

### TITANS OF THE 1960s

These two sides were amongst the strongest in the Victorian Football League in the 1960s decade. The Cats played finals in every year from 1962 to 1969. Essendon played finals in 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1968. Geelong played in two Grand Finals, winning in 1963 and losing to Richmond in 1967. Essendon played in three Grand Finals, winning in 1962 and 1965 but losing to Carlton by just three points in 1968. The two sides met in the finals on five occasions with the Bombers successful in four, the 1962 second semi final, the 1965 and 1966 first semi finals, and the 1968 preliminary final.

Essendon's coaches during this time were Dick Reynolds (1939-1960), John Coleman (1961-1967) and Jack Clarke (1968-1970). Geelong was coached by Bob Davis (1960-1965) and Peter Pianto (1966-1970). Geelong's forward line was spearheaded by Doug Wade (Coleman Medallist in 1962, 1967, 1969 and 1974) whilst Essendon had a number of outstanding forwards including Hugh Mitchell, Ted Fordham (Coleman Medallist in 1966), Charlie Payne, Ron Evans (Coleman Medallist in 1959 and 1960) and Alan Noonan.



### EARLY DAYS

The *Football Record* of May 21, 1921 told us of a very pleasant day at Geelong when these two sides met: "It was a great day in Geelong last Saturday. The boat race over, people flocked to the Oval to see the 'ballers. There was as much excitement and interest in the land battle as there had been in the naval engagement, which the Scotch boys won so handsomely. They had been coached by an old footballer – Alec Sloan, a Fitzroy ex-captain. During the match an aeroplane swept over the Oval and scattered slips of paper with the Scotch College colours to inform the people who had not seen the boat race of the result. Just after the 'bus above had flown away, Fehring, of Essendon, had sprung high for the mark. He seemed to dwell in midair. It was a fine feat, and someone in the crowd shouted 'They must have dropped him out of the 'plane'. This raised a hearty laugh. But it was a fine compliment to the ex-Richmond goal-kicker."

### PLAYED FOR BOTH – John Barnes

Recruited to the Bombers from Cobram, **John Barnes** managed only 12 games (12 goals) with the club from 1987 to 1991. Traded to the Cats, he played 144 games (65 goals) for the club, including their two losing Grand Final sides in 1994 and 1995. Kevin Sheedy lured him back to Windy Hill and he played a further 46 games (13 goals) before retiring after Essendon's loss to Brisbane in the 2001 Grand Final.

## 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.

### Geelong v Essendon

#### Geelong v Essendon by venue

	Won by Geelong	Won by Essendon	Drawn
MCG	13	15	0
Bris. Exhib. Oval	0	1	0
Corio Oval	24	16	1
Docklands	13	5	0
East Melbourne	7	19	0
Gabba	1	0	0
Kardinia Park	23	19	0
Waverley	4	4	0
Windy Hill	15	36	4
	100	115	5

#### Highest Score

Geelong	28.13 (181)	Rd 9	1992	MCG
Essendon	26.9 (165)	Rd 21	1983	K P

#### Lowest Score

Geelong	2.9 (21)	Rd 8	1910	E Melb
Essendon	2.3 (15)	Rd 9	1902	E Melb

#### Greatest Winning Margin

Geelong	116 points	Rd 17	1934	Corio
Essendon	97 points	Rd 2	1986	WH

#### Last Time They Met – Round 16, 2021, Kardinia Park

	Geelong	Essendon
Quarter time	1.1	4.2
Half time	9.3	5.3
Three-quarter time	11.5	7.8
Full time	15. 8 (98)	8.9 (57)

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

14	Gary Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 6	1993	14
13	John Coleman	Ess	Rd 8	1952	13
12	Fred Gallagher	Ess	Rd 8	1957	12
10	Paul Salmon	Ess	Rd 6	1993	10
10	Jack Metherell	Geel	Rd 9	1936	10

## THE ORIGIN OF "THE SPECCIES" – THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGH MARK

Just one known description of jumping to mark was recorded prior to 1873. It was in the September 6, 1862, edition of *Bell's Life in Victoria*. In it "Mr. Pips" wrote, "...then one Melbourne youth jumped wonderfully high in the air and caught the ball ere it came near the others, and called, 'Mark.'... eager to catch the ball as it comes, and terrible is the rush, by which all lose it, falling pell-mell over one another in the attempt." However, the reference seems somewhat of an oddity. On August 2, 1873, the next known description of a high mark was when Melbourne's Ben Goldsmith, "jumped up, and by a fine effort, although surrounded by the Carltonians managed to secure a mark". The following year Carlton's Jack Donovan took a "grand mark by jumping for the ball" on August 15, 1874. "Tom Jones", however, suggested that players take caution when marking, writing in *The Footballer of 1876*, "Jumping for marks is dangerous, 'I pray you avoid it.'" James Bennie seems to be the first player to make a habit of "jumping out of a crowd just like a fish leaping out of the water" (*The Age*, August 6, 1877). Joey Tankard, who began his senior career with Hotham in 1880, claimed in the May 27, 1914, *Referee* that as a junior in 1877 he was "the only player that high-marked the ball with his finger-tips" rather than against his chest. Geelong's Jack Kerley was another finger-tip marker of the early 1880s who leaped regularly to meet the ball. High marking gradually became more prevalent in the 1880s. However, they were not the "hangers" that we are familiar with today. These seem to have evolved around the turn of the twentieth century or shortly thereafter. Alf Young, who played for Essendon from 1890 to 1894, claimed in the May 15, 1943 *Sporting Globe* that, "High marking had not reached the fantastic standard of more recent years. Men depended more on their height and length of arms than on their springing powers."

### 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>

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