



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2022 ROUND 17 COLLINGWOOD V NORTH MELBOURNE

LIBRARY FACT SHEET JULY 9, 2022

IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE TOP: NORTH MELBOURNE 1869-1975

Tradition has it that 1869 was North Melbourne Football Club's inaugural year, based on a sketchy report in *The Australasian* newspaper. It is also believed that James H. Gardiner was the club's first secretary. In 1876, North embarked upon a short-lived amalgamation with Albert Park, and then in 1877, re-born as Hotham, became a founding member of the VFA. When the Town (municipality) of Hotham was renamed North Melbourne in 1887, the football club followed suit. VFA premierships were won in 1903, 1904, 1910, 1914, 1915 and 1918. After several failed applications to join the VFL, North was admitted in 1925, along with Footscray and Hawthorn. After 20 years of finishing in the bottom half of the League ladder, the club made the finals for the first time in 1945, but lost to Carlton in the first semi-final. In 1949 North took top spot at the end of the home and away games, but lost both finals to finish third. In 1950 the nickname "Kangaroos" was adopted, and the first grand final was reached, but Essendon took the flag. Following a radical change to transfer rules in 1972, North recruited star players Barry Davis (Essendon), John Rantall (South Melbourne) and Doug Wade (Geelong). The team lost to Richmond in the 1974 Grand Final, but then broke the premiership drought in 1975, scoring 19.8 (122) to Hawthorn's 9.13 (67). Six years after the club's centenary celebrations, North Melbourne had finally made it to the top.



North Melbourne champion Les Foote as photographed for the Argus Weekend Magazine. He captained the club in the 1950.

ERN COPELAND

E.W. "Ern" Copeland was a key figure in establishing Collingwood as one of Melbourne's most powerful football clubs. In 1895, when he was chief clerk of the Metropolitan Gas Company, Copeland agreed to take on the position of secretary, filling that role until 1923. He came to the job during a major economic depression, Collingwood being deep in debt and struggling to stay afloat. Copeland was able to put into place a series of steps which saw the club almost debt free by 1897. Not coincidentally, the team had won its first VFA premiership in 1896. He was also a key figure in securing Collingwood's tenure at Victoria Park. Although he never played for the club, Copeland was so highly regarded that it was decided to establish a best and fairest award which would honour his name. The first of these was won by Syd Coventry in 1927.

THE FIRST OF NORTH'S FAILED BIDS TO JOIN THE LEAGUE

In late 1907 North Melbourne amalgamated with local rival West Melbourne in an effort to gain admission to the VFL (now AFL). Both were VFA clubs who saw an opening into League ranks when the VFL decided to admit the amateur team University. As well as the North/West application there were submissions from the Brighton Football Club, the Ballarat Football Association, and the Richmond Football Club. On October 18, 1907, at a special meeting of the VFL in the Port Phillip Club Hotel, the membership applications of the four were tabled. After the Ballarat and Brighton submissions were dismissed, the Richmond and North/West Melbourne parties were invited to address the VFL delegates on, "the position and prospects of their club". When the North/West officials ended their address, Collingwood's Ern Copeland moved, and Melbourne's George Peckham Beachcroft seconded, a motion that Richmond be admitted to the League. Essendon delegate George Stuckey argued vehemently for the North/West bid. He moved an amendment, seconded by Essendon's other delegate, "that the North Melbourne Club be admitted". After some discussion, this was put and lost 13 votes to 2. Then Copeland's motion was put and carried unanimously. West Melbourne and North Melbourne were expelled from the VFA. They applied to join the VFL again on February 21, 1908, but were unsuccessful. However, the North Melbourne Football Club was accepted back into the VFA with a proviso that none of the old committee could sit on its board.

This Round in History – Round 17 on the MCG

The highest score at the MCG in this round is 28.17 (185) by Richmond against St Kilda 14.18 (102) in 1982. The overall Round 17 record is 36.22 (238) by Fitzroy against Melbourne 6.12 (48) at Waverley Park in 1979. The most goals by an individual is 12 by two players: George Margitich for Melbourne against North Melbourne in 1931 – Melbourne kicked 18.15 (123) to win by 44 points – and Norm Smith for Melbourne against Footscray in 1941 when Melbourne kicked 17.20 (122) to win by 17 points. The overall Round 17 record is 13 by Doug Wade for Geelong against South Melbourne at the Lakeside Oval in 1967. Geelong kicked 21.13 (139) to win by 76 points. The highest score in a quarter is 10.6 (66) in the last quarter by North Melbourne against Melbourne in 1998. North kicked 22.20 (152) to win by 65 points. The overall Round 17 record is 14.2 (86) in the second quarter by Adelaide against Fitzroy at Football Park (Adelaide) in 1996. The Crows kicked 26.10 (166) to win by 99 points. The highest Round 17 attendance at the MCG is 85,831 on July 16, 1994 when Carlton defeated Collingwood by 43 points.

Statistics for Collingwood v North Melbourne

Collingwood v North Melbourne by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by North Melb	Drawn
MCG	15	14	1
Arden Street	28	16	0
Coburg	1	0	0
Docklands	10	6	0
Gabba	1	0	0
Manuka	1	0	0
Victoria Park	47	10	1
Waverley	6	6	0
	109	52	2

Highest Score

Collingwood	26.20 (176)	Rd 9	1990	VP
North Melb.	25.15 (165)	Rd 21	1974	AS

Lowest Score

Collingwood	2.6 (18)	Rd 13	1987	Wav
North Melb.	2.8 (20)	Rd 18	1934	VP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	113 points	Rd 14	1937	VP
North Melb.	91 points	Rd 21	1974	AS

Last Time They Met – Round 8, 2021, Docklands

	Collingwood	North Melb
Quarter time	3.2	2.2
Half time	8.6	3.6
Three-quarter time	12.10	8.7
Full time	14.10 (94)	11.10 (76)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

11	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 5	1972	AS
10	Ron Todd	Coll	Rd 6	1938	AS
10	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 17	1929	VP

E.W. COPELAND TROPHY QUOTES

- “The Copeland Trophy is the most prestigious award in Australian football.”
– Collingwood president Allan McAlister, 1990
- “Winning the Copeland doesn’t mean a thing unless we win a Grand Final. You look back at individual awards at the end of the year, but with our side, I’m pretty sure we can go all the way. I have no doubt we can go all the way. Expect big things next year.”
– Dane Swan, October 2009
- “To have won the Copeland Trophy twice during my career is an honour. But to say I have been the Collingwood Football Club’s captain for four seasons is the individual achievement that I am most proud of.”
– Gavin Brown, *Collingwood Forever*, 1997
- “Probably the proudest moment of my life was when I won my first Copeland Trophy in 1984... It was just the proudest I’ve seen mum.”
– Tony Shaw, *A Shaw Thing*, 1990



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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