

Fun Scotch Facts

F is for Football

The rivalry between Carlton and Collingwood is nothing compared to that between Scotch and Melbourne Grammar School, as no two competitors have played the great Australian game longer. Here's a look at Scotch and football over the years:

- While opinions differ about its importance to the origin of the sport, the game played between Scotch and Melbourne Grammar School on 7 August 1858 (and completed over two further days) is generally considered to be the first recorded and recognisable game of football
- Scotch scored the first goal, but MGS quickly retaliated, with neither side able to score the pre-agreed second goal required for victory, despite two days' further play
- Teachers played alongside boys in for both schools
- Several Scotch staff and boys involved in the first game were prominent in the early development of the new sport: Thomas Henry Smith (teacher) was involved in writing the first rules in 1859 and was Melbourne Football Club's second captain; John Conway (SC 1858) left Scotch to become a foundation MGS boy and played for it in this game, later an inspirational captain of Carlton and acknowledged for helping 'make the game of football'; George Frederick 'Olympus' Bowen (SC 1858-59) was a founder of the Carlton Football Club, an early Carlton player (1864-66) and sports journalist, and brothers David Ogilvy (SC 1851-59), James Williamson Ogilvy (SC 1851-60) and Alexander John Ogilvy (SC 1851-62) played for the Melbourne Football Club in the period from 1860 to 1868
- In a record unlikely to be beaten, eight boys from the same school debuted in one round: the first ever round of VFL (now AFL) football, on 8 May 1897: William Thomas Ahern (SC 1884-87; St. Kilda), Norman Kenneth McLeod (SC 1894-97; Melbourne), Albert William Robinson (SC 1895-97; Melbourne), Walter Colville Steele (SC 1894-96; Melbourne), Ernest Robert Stewart (SC 1887; St. Kilda), Oscar Reginald Stewart (SC 1887; St. Kilda), Frederick William Turner (SC 1890-91; St. Kilda) and William Rich Weir (SC 1887-89; Carlton)
- Edgar Ashton Fortescue Croft (SC 1888-90) played in the first VFL (now AFL) premiership, winning as a member of Essendon's 1897 side
- James William McLaren 'Bill' Morris (SC 1934-38) is Scotch's only Brownlow Medal winner to date, winning it in 1948 as a Richmond player
- In the days when players were strictly tied to clubs by geographical zones, many Scotch boys naturally played for Hawthorn: not so good in the early years, but a different story in its inaugural premiership in 1961, with Colin George Youren (SC 1951-57), Malcolm Walker 'Basher' Hill (SC 1946-56), John Spence Winneke (SC 1946-56) and Ian Kennon 'Liberty' Law (SC 1945-56) playing in that premiership
- Nicholas Justin Wilkinson Smith (SC 2001-06; previously a St. Kevin's College boy) is the Scotchie who has played the most VFL/AFL games, with 211 for Sydney
- Terence Campbell Waites (SC 1945-52) and Cyril Rioli (SC 2004-07) have the rare distinction of winning VFL/AFL premierships in their first year after school: Terry for Collingwood in 1953, and Cyril for Hawthorn in 2008. Cyril is the Scotchie who has won the most VFL/AFL premierships, with four (2008, 2013-15)
- More Scotch boys have played in the VFL (now AFL) than have come from any other school, with 174 to date