

LET'S LOOK AT FOOTBALL

with HUGH BUGGY



1938—Carlton comes back

SELDOM has football in Victoria reached a higher standard than in 1938 — the year the Blues came back.

Exhilarating football by the stronger League clubs gave fans 22 weeks of sheer delight.

It was a memorable season of textbook football, astonishing form reversals and close, tense, hard-fought games.

Setting the pace, the Blues were never headed. They overcame their finals hoodoo to sweep on to their first pennant since 1915.

● Laurie Nash, one of the greatest players in the game between the wars, transferred from South Melbourne to Camberwell without a clearance. His move renewed trafficking in players between League and Association.

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● Twenty-seven points down with nine minutes to go, Richmond snatched an amazing win against Essendon on June 18. The Tigers scored 5-2 in those nine minutes to win.

● A mystery man claiming to represent promoters of a football betting card, offered Tiger forward Jack Titus £50 to play "dead" against South. Titus reported the approach to the committee, played brilliantly against South, and kicked five goals.

● With 11 goals in the final against Geelong, Magpie star Ron Todd equalled the record established by Harry Vullence against Collingwood in the semi-final of 1931.

● Star North Adelaide forward Ken Farmer reached his 1,000th goal after nine seasons. Gordon

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This happened in 1938:

● Grand final attendance of 96,834 was more than a League record. It was the largest crowd ever to watch a football match of any code in Australia. Record attendance at an Australia v. England Rugby League game in Sydney was 70,204 in 1932.

● By developing district players, Footscray made the four for the first time after 13 years in the League. They were the first of the three V.F.A. clubs admitted in 1925 to climb so high.

● South's ace forward Bob Pratt, after a season out of the game through an ankle injury, returned as vice-captain.

● Ken Baxter, from Werribee, who was to become Carlton's most reliable forward for 11 years, began with the Blues.

Star of the season

DICK REYNOLDS won his third Brownlow Medal to equal the record of Haydn Bunton in 1931-32-35.



His raring skill in making openings, and his inspiring example helped to lift Essendon from 10th to 7th on the list.

● Fans had a surfeit of thrills on July 23. Four games out of six were won by one point — a League record. They were: Geelong, 14-20, v. St. Kilda, 15-13; North Melbourne, 13-18, v. South Melbourne, 14-11; Essendon, 17-17, v. Collingwood, 17-16; and Melbourne, 9-16, v. Hawthorn, 10-9.

● Marcus Boyall (Collingwood) and Norman Ware (Footscray) were joint winners of "The Argus" Cup for best and fairest player of 1938.

● Magpie's new star forward, Ron Todd, on May 21 kicked 11 goals against Carlton—nine in the first half. Yet Collingwood lost

the match, 17-12 to 19-16. Todd kicked 60 goals in his first eight games of 1938—an average of 7½ a match.

● Geelong ran up 19-32 against South Melbourne on June 9—a new League record for behinds. Previous record tally, also by Geelong, was 21-31 in 1934.

How the flag was won

Carlton beat Collingwood in the Grand Final with a shrewd tactical plan.

In a tense, hard but fair, game the Blues played in front of their opponents. They also held a strong grip on that dangerous Magpie pair—Alby Panham and Des Fothergill.

Against these tactics Collingwood was never able to get that early shattering break which had won them so many games. Their loose man was never allowed to be loose for more than a minute. So in a game filled with stirring passages the Magpies faltered towards the close.

Scores:
CARLTON: 3-5, 3-6, 11-8, 15-10 (100)
COLLINGWOOD: 2-1, 4-4, 8-5, 13-7 (85)
FINALS: Aggregate attendance 290,703 (all-time record). Receipts, £19,426.
First Round Aggregate Attendance: 1,599,532. Receipts, £26,127.

Statistics for the year

PRIMERSHIP LIST					
FIRST ROUND					
	Pts	Pts	for agst Pts %		
	W	L	for	agst	Pts %
Carlton	14	4	1072	1771	60.5
Geelong	12	5	1092	1308	57.5
Footscray	12	5	1238	1588	57.5
Wood	12	6	1242	1637	55.8
Melb.	11	7	1226	1675	51.08
Richmond	10	8	1242	1783	49.5
Essendon	9	9	1001	1500	46.7
St. Kilda	9	9	1171	1600	49.5
N. Melb.	6	12	1281	1832	41.5
Fitzeys	5	13	1541	2542	36.84
Hawthorn	4	14	1114	1771	36.84
S. Melb.	2	16	1225	1986	31.5

SECOND ROUND					
	Pts	Pts	for agst Pts %		
	W	L	for	agst	Pts %
Carlton	2	2	6	71	66.8
Wood	2	2	3	77	31.5
Geelong	2	0	5	176	31.5
Footscray	1	0	1	76	31.5

SECOND ROUND					
	Pts	Pts	for agst Pts %		
	W	L	for	agst	Pts %
Carlton	2	2	6	71	66.8
Wood	2	2	3	77	31.5
Geelong	2	0	5	176	31.5
Footscray	1	0	1	76	31.5

LEADING GOALKICKERS	
RON TODD (Collingwood)	70
HARRY VALENTI (Footscray)	61
NORMAN SMITH (Melbourne)	40
CLIVE HUMER (Geelong)	38
JACK TITUS (Richmond)	37

HIGHEST AND LOWEST	
HIGHEST	Melbourne, 74-55
LOWEST	Hawthorn, 1-7

INTERSTATE MATCHES	
Victoria	22-17, d. Western Australia, 12-21 (Melbourne)
Victoria	21-13, d. South Australia, 16-18 (Adelaide)

TEAM CAPTAINS	
CARLTON	Brighton Higgins
COLLINGWOOD	Barry Collin
GEELONG	Reg. Hicks, FOOTSCRAY, Roy Evans, MELBOURNE, Alan La Fontaine
RICHMOND	Perry Bevilacqua
ESSENDON	Len Webster, ST. KILDA, Ansel Clarke, SOUTH MELB., Keith Forbes, FOOTSCRAY, Frank Curran, HAWTHORN, Bert Mills, SOUTH MELB., Herb Matthews