

Next Game –

AFLW Week 3 – Dreamtime in Darwin

Friday August 29

7:15 pm AEST

Richmond



RICHMOND

14th

\$2.93



sportsbet

4th

\$1.39

Essendon



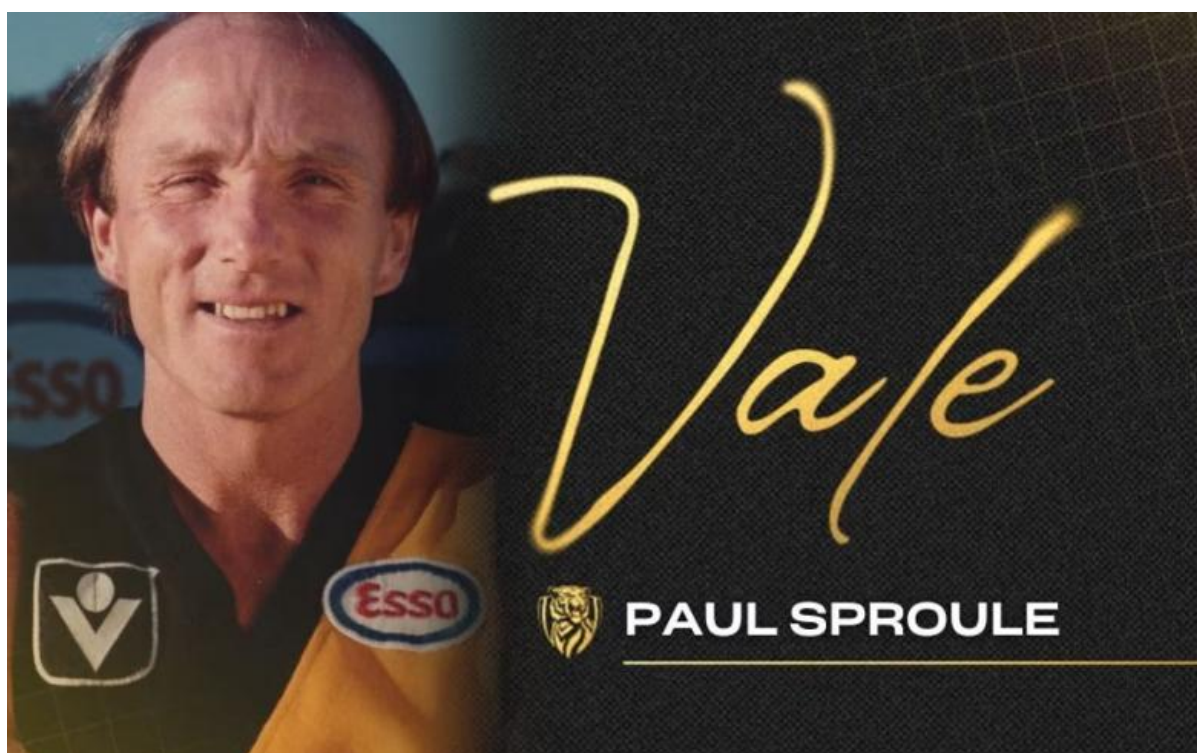
ESSENDON

Indigenous Round

TIO Stadium, Darwin • Larrakia

Vale Paul Sproule – richmondafc.com.au

Richmond is mourning the passing of dual premiership star and former coach Paul Sproule.



Richmond is mourning the passing of dual premiership star and former coach Paul Sproule, aged 80.

Sproule played a significant role in the Tigers' back-to-back premiership wins of 1973-74 and later coached the Club for one season in 1985.



**CAPITAL
TIGERS**

Roar Roundup – Week 25

for the
**TIGER
ARMY**

He started his senior football career with the Hobart Tigers in Tasmania in 1962 alongside another player who would subsequently rewrite the League record books – Ian Stewart.

A decade later, after Stewart had won his third Brownlow Medal, the pair would team up again in Tiger colours - this time at Richmond.

The story of Stewart's arrival at Punt Road, and subsequent dominance, has been well-documented. Sproule, however, slipped into Tigerland with little fanfare or fuss.

The 180cm midfielder had spent four seasons at Essendon and been a member of the Bombers' losing Grand Final side in 1968, but at the end of the '71 season he was left off their senior list.

Richmond's leading football administrator of the day, the late Alan Schwab, couldn't believe his luck when Sproule became available.

"I first saw Paul Sproule play with Hobart in 1965. I was assistant secretary of St Kilda at the time, and it was my first interstate recruiting trip," Schwab recounted.

"On the Saturday morning, I saw a skinny kid playing with Clarence under-age named Royce Hart (he had already been signed by Richmond)...in the afternoon I saw Paul Sproule.

"Of all the hundreds of recruiting trips I have made since, I doubt I have seen two such talented and highly-promising players on the one day.

"When I returned to St Kilda, I told them of Sproule, but they were not overly impressed. Later I read that he had signed with Essendon, and I followed his career with interest.

"Every time he played against Richmond – I had since joined them – I thought he was a terrific player.

"Then, at the end of 1971, he was dropped off the Bombers' list. Tom Hafey, Graeme Richmond and I could not believe it. We tore out to his home, and, after a fair bit of talking, he agreed to join Richmond.

"Strangely, Paul's only doubt was his ability to gain a regular game. For this reason, he almost signed with a VFA club."

All-up, Sproule cost Richmond a moderate transfer fee of \$2000. That figure was to represent enormous value for money in the ensuing four seasons.

Sproule became a pivotal member of the powerful Tigers' team due to his professionalism, prolific possession-winning ability, top-class disposal, goal sense, superb fitness levels and all-round football 'smarts'.

In Sproule's time at Punt Road, Richmond never finished below third, and he had an extremely impressive winning strike-rate of nearly 71 percent.

He was one of Richmond's best players in both those Grand Final triumphs, over Carlton (21 disposals) and North Melbourne (24 disposals) respectively.

In the '74 premiership decider against North Melbourne, Sproule was shifted into the centre 10 minutes into the second quarter, after the Roos had raced to an 11-point lead. Richmond proceeded to kick six goals in the next 15 minutes, with Sproule, Kevin Sheedy and Royce Hart dominating, and providing the catalyst for another Tiger premiership.

This prompted former Essendon champion and Grand Final coach, Jack Clarke, to write the following tribute to Sproule in his post-Grand Final column for 'Inside Football' magazine.

"There is a much-forgotten skill in football, and I believe Richmond's Paul Sproule has mastered it," Clarke wrote.



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“It’s reading the play at the centre hit-outs, and this is where Sproule excelled on Saturday.

“I thought he was probably the best man on the ground.

“Perhaps the fact I knew him from his Essendon days influenced me to look more closely at his performance.

“But Paul is a highly-professional and polished League footballer.

“He has the know-how and the uncanny knack of reading the play, which is rare in football.

“Sproule has obviously spent many hours closely studying the movements and actions of other players in centre contests and is highly skilled in successfully anticipating these.

“That’s why he was able to break free from the centre so many times on Saturday.”

Those in the inner sanctum at Tigerland during the glory days of the 70s, speak in glowing terms of the outstanding contribution made by Sproule to the side’s success.

Richmond Team of the Century member and three-time premiership hero, Kevin Sheedy, played alongside Sproule throughout the ex-Bomber’s four seasons at Tigerland, and was a big fan of the way he went about his football business.

“Paul was an excellent player. He had an extremely intelligent football brain. He read the play extremely well and had that ability to get where the ball was all the time,” Sheedy said.

“We got on really well...he was my changing partner, along with Ian Stewart...we’d all have stints on the ball.

“He was a calculating player...he knew exactly what he was doing and was very, very fit.

“He might have been under-rated outside of Richmond, but I can assure you that among his teammates he was very, very highly regarded.”

Sproule’s impact throughout his playing career at Tigerland was huge. Overall, he played 86 games and kicked 93 goals in a top-class career with Richmond, earning a reputation as one of the Tigers’ best-ever pick-ups from a rival League club.

At the end of the 1984 season, Sproule returned to Punt Road as senior coach following an extremely successful coaching stint with Sandy Bay and Hobart in Tasmania.

The Tigers won nine games and lost 13 in the 1985 season under Sproule and showed some promising signs, but he was subsequently replaced after just one year at the helm by returning premiership coach Tony Jewell.

Richmond sends its deepest sympathy to Paul’s family and friends.

Injury Report: AFLW Round 3, 2025

Richmond has released its injury report ahead of a crucial Dreamtime in Darwin clash against Essendon.

AFLW High Performance Manager Eliza Morrison has provided this week’s injury update as the Tigers prepare to fly to Darwin for Dreamtime against the Bombers.

This Injury Report is brought to you by [nib](#). With [nib](#), life could be potentially amazing.

SEE THE FULL INJURY REPORT BELOW.



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Paige Scott: Foot, Available

"Scotty had a painful collision in our Round 2 game, just before half time," Morrison said.

"Scotty was able to play through the rest of the game, and we are confident they will be available for this week."

Grace Egan: Lip, Test

"Grace suffered a lip laceration from the game. She had surgery yesterday and will be a test for this week's game," Morrison said.

Sarah Hosking: Hamstring, 1-3 weeks

"Hosko is tracking well through her progressions and will continue to progress through matchplay minutes," Morrison said.

Montana McKinnon: ACL, 1-3 weeks

"Monty made an exciting progression last weekend when she returned to matchplay minutes in scrimmage," Morrison said.

"We will continue to increase Monty's minutes and hope to have her available for AFLW selection in the next one to three weeks."

Tessa Lavey: Hamstring, 5-7 weeks

"Tessa is moving through her progressions as planned," Morrison said.

"She has been working hard on the track to tick everything off, and we hope to have her returning to drills in the next one to two weeks."

Match Review – Geelong Cats – Week 24 – afl.com.au

Cats secure top-two spot after disposing of plucky Tigers

Geelong cruises to a 39-point win over Richmond

GEELONG has secured second spot on the ladder with a comprehensive 39-point win over Richmond at the MCG on Saturday afternoon.

The Cats led at every break to win easily over the 17th placed Tigers 14.19 (103) to 9.10 (64) in front of a crowd of 46,109.

TIGERS v CATS [Full match coverage and stats](#)

It's the Cats' sixth win in a row and it ensures they have a home qualifying final and a double chance when the finals kick off in two weeks' time.

Geelong will play either Hawthorn or Brisbane in the first week of finals, pending the result of Sunday night's match between the two sides.

Cats spearhead Jeremy Cameron booted four goals and four behinds on his quest to win his second Coleman Medal. He is now on 83 goals for the season, a career-high for the four-time All-Australian.

The well-drilled Cats looked a class above their opponents, particularly with their entries inside 50, which were far more organised and methodical compared to the younger less experienced Tigers.



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The run and carry from the Cats' mids, in particular Max Holmes (26 disposals, 677m gained) and Bailey Smith (34 disposals, 10 inside 50s, 594m gained) provided their forwards with plenty of supply.

The 'Dash Brothers' were joined by local hero Tom Atkins (27 disposals, nine tackles) in his 150th game since joining the Cats from their VFL program back in 2019.

Geelong had eight individual goal kickers, putting together a string of nine unanswered goals from midway through the first quarter until the 20 minute mark of the third term.

Gryan Miers was the only injury scare, going down into the rooms in the second term for a HIA assessment after a head-high collision with Kamdyn McIntosh, but returned to the ground later in the quarter.

There were some positives for Richmond in its final match of the season.

The Tigers outscored Geelong in the final term, kicking five goals to the Cats' one when the sting was well and truly out of the game.

Young defender Josh Gibcus made a successful return to the AFL, playing his first game in 527 days after a number of long-term injuries. Gibcus was subbed out tactically in the third quarter.

The Tigers' combination of youth and experience continues to build, with Tim Taranto (27 disposals, seven clearances), Jacob Hopper (29, four) and Dion Prestia (28, two goals) leading the way.

Youngsters Sam Banks (30 disposals) and Tom Brown (20, one goal) both put together solid performances to finish what has arguably been their best seasons in yellow and black.

Tigers fans also said farewell to stalwart Kamdyn McIntosh, playing his last game for the club after two premierships and 213 games.

Stewart and Rioli clash late

In the dying seconds of Saturday's game, there was an incident between Maurice Rioli and Tom Stewart where the Geelong defender made contact with Rioli's head. The two were trying to gather a loose ball just outside the centre square, and while Rioli puts his head over the ball he connects with Stewart's elbow. Both coaches played down the incident, but it is sure to be looked at by the Match Review Officer.

Atkins breaks record

Midfield bull Tom Atkins notched up more than one milestone in Saturday's match. Along with his 150 games, Atkins broke the record for the most number of tackles laid in a season. Atkins surpassed Scott Selwood on 202 tackles, his nine tackles against Richmond making it 205 from his 23 games this season.

RICHMOND	2.2	2.3	4.6	9.10 (64)
GEELONG	6.7	11.12	13.17	14.19 (103)

GOALS

Richmond: Lynch 3, Campbell 2, Prestia 2, Mansell, Brown

Geelong: Cameron 4, Dangerfield 2, Stengle 2, Mannagh 2, Bowes, Stanley, Dempsey, Martin

BEST

Richmond: Taranto, Prestia, Hopper, Brown, Banks

Geelong: Smith, Holmes, Miers, Stewart, Cameron

INJURIES

Richmond: Nil

Geelong: Nil

SUBSTITUTES

Richmond: Luke Trainor (replaced Josh Gibcus in the third quarter)

Geelong: Mitch Knevitt (replaced Mark Blicavs in the fourth quarter)

Crowd: 46,109 at the MCG

VFL Match Review – GWS Giants – Richmondfc.com.au

Richmond advance to VFL Elimination Final

The Tigers took down the Giants in the Wildcard Final on Saturday.

Richmond has defied injury and the GWS Giants to win by 18 points in the Wildcard Final on Saturday afternoon at ETU Stadium.

With the win, the Tigers have punched their ticket to next weekend's Elimination Final.

The game was an arm wrestle in the first half before a seven-goal third term gave Richmond enough breathing room to hold on and advance.

It was a frantic start to the game with both teams keeping the ball in motion and playing attacking footy.

But it was the Tigers who made more of their opportunities with electric goals to Massimo Raso, Steely Green and Sam Toner, giving the Richmond faithful something to cheer about early on.

Towards the backend of the first quarter, the lead was already out to 25 points, before the Giants kicked a much-needed goal through Hugo Birks.

Taine Moraschi followed that with another goal to GWS, cutting the lead back to 15 points at the first change.

Richmond started the second quarter well with a classy snap from the pocket by key forward Jacob Koschitzke, but that is where the momentum stopped for the Tigers.

Two quick goals from crafty small forward Phoenix Gothard brought the lead back to just nine points, sparking a period of clearance domination for the Giants.

For a large part of the quarter, Richmond was made to defend and held up reasonably well under pressure, but some turnovers in the back half proved costly.

At half time, the Tigers' lead had been cut down to only two points, with the main break coming at a good time for Richmond, desperately needing to hit the reset button.

Young key forward Liam Fawcett got the Tigers off to a brilliant start after the main break, kicking back-to-back goals to again give Richmond the advantage.

But the Giants would refuse to lay down, with goals to James Lugsdin and Perry Lewis-Smith keeping scores very close.

The Tigers withstood that challenge and replied straight away, with Koschitzke kicking two goals in rapid time, helping to push the margin out to three goals.

The latter of those goals was brought about by relentless pressure from small forward Mohammed Yassine, who was then rewarded as he ran into an open goal moments later.

Then an off-the-ball free kick resulted in Green kicking his second goal deep into time on, as the Tigers turned the tide to lead by 28 points at three-quarter time.

They would need every part of that buffer, with Richmond's VFL captain Lachlan Street (ankle), Nick Guiney (shoulder) and Campbell Gray all ruled out of the game with injury.

The Giants put some doubt into the Tigers' minds with an early goal in the last quarter, cutting the lead to under four goals.



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But despite injuries and plenty of moving parts, Richmond held strong as Nicholas Girolami kicked back-to-back goals, Yassine kicked his third, and Joel Garner got on the board to blow the lead beyond 40 points.

GWS kicked a few late goals to give the side some hope against a tiring Tigers outfit, but Richmond ultimately did enough early in the quarter to hang on and win by 18 points.

Koschitzke continued his purple patch of form (four goals), looking a real presence in the forward half before moving down back later in the game.

After struggling to win clearances in the first half, young gun Harry Scott (26 disposals and five clearances) and the midfield group lifted to give their forwards the first opportunity to score.

Phoenix Gothard was brilliant for GWS, finishing the game with four goals to go along with 19 disposals, as was Josh Fahey (34 disposals), as he gave his side plenty of drive off half back.

Richmond 4.4 5.7 12.12 17.14 (116)
GWS 2.1 5.5 8.8 14.14 (98)

Goals: Koschitzke 4, Yassine 3, Fawcett 3, Green 2, Girolami 2, Toner, Raso, Garner

AFLW Match Review – Western Bulldogs – afl.com.au

Bulldogs' big finish leaves Tigers waiting for a win

A close contest was blown open in the final minutes by a determined Western Bulldogs side that proved too good for Richmond

THE WESTERN Bulldogs have consigned finals hopeful Richmond to a 0-2 start, out-working the Tigers in a 21-point win at Ikon Park.

It was a tightly fought contest for most of the day in near-perfect conditions, until the Dogs put the foot down in the final term while holding the Tigers scoreless, securing the 6.6 (42) to 3.3 (21) victory.

TIGERS v BULLDOGS [Full match coverage and stats](#)

Fierce tackling was the order of the day, with the Bulldogs especially making sure their defensive efforts hit the mark.

Both sides had plenty of opportunities early, locking the ball inside their attacking ends for large periods of the first term, but just couldn't find the middle of the sticks, with a number of shots dribbling out of play and not scoring at all.

Paige Scott kicked their first goal in Richmond colours after a strong chase-down tackle, showing composure to slot the shot after the quarter-time siren.

Scott's game appeared to have finished less than a quarter later when their ankle collided with Lauren Ahren's leg at high speed, but they re-emerged after the main break.

Sarah Hartwig found a rare bit of space in the second term, taking two bounces, until her third didn't quite come back to her – it was that sort of game, with a lot of full-hearted efforts from both sides that didn't quite come off.



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Western Bulldogs sent defender Liz Georgostathis to Monique Conti (21, six clearances) at the opening centre bounce, and while it wasn't a completely hard tag, the tenacious Dog made life difficult for the superstar in her 75th game around the contest.

The Dogs took a seven-point lead into the final break after Ellie Gavalas took advantage of a scrap in front of her side's goals, pouncing accordingly.

They had all the running in the final term, with Heidi Woodley sealing the game with five minutes left.

Reigning Dogs best and fairest Isabelle Pritchard (19, seven clearances) was superb in her second game back from a knee injury, working well in tandem with Jess Fitzgerald, while Isabelle Grant patrolled the backline and quelled Katie Brennan.

The Dogs' future forward line is now

Draftee Emma McDonald and second-year half-forward Elaine Grigg combined beautifully on a number of occasions to help the Dogs hit the scoreboard. Key forward McDonald didn't just kick a goal herself, but set up Lou Stephenson with some sharp hands over her head. Grigg was a livewire both further afield and close to goal, and her tackling was a hallmark of the Dogs' game.

Richmond's forward line question mark

The Tigers failed to take a single mark inside 50, despite the presence of Katie Brennan, Caitlin Greiser and Scott. Full-back Bec Miller was again thrown into attack on occasion to provide a marking target, but it's the second game in a row where the forward line has struggled to land a proper blow.

Up next

The Tigers travel to the Top End, taking on Essendon in Darwin to open the two-week Indigenous Round celebrations. The Dogs have a stiff challenge, hosting Hawthorn at Mission Whitten Oval on Saturday night.

RICHMOND	1.2	2.2	3.3	3.3	(21)
WESTERN BULLDOGS	1.1	3.3	4.4	6.6	(42)

GOALS

Richmond: Scott, Greiser, Shevlin

Western Bulldogs: Grigg, McDonald, Stephenson, Gavalas, Woodley, Pritchard

BEST

Richmond: Conti, McKenzie, Kelly, Seymour

Western Bulldogs: Pritchard, Grant, Fitzgerald, Wilcox, Grigg, Kimber

INJURIES

Richmond: Scott (ankle)

Western Bulldogs: Nil

Crowd: TBC at Ikon Park