

Fraser Pope acquitted of post-Grand Final rape charges

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HERALDSUN
3:15PM MARCH 1, 2012

A YOUNG man accused of raping a woman after partying with Collingwood footballers and others after the 2010 AFL Grand Final has been acquitted of five counts of rape.

Fraser James Pope, 23, held his head in his hands and wept in the dock as the jury foreperson announced the not guilty verdicts in the County Court this afternoon.

Mr Pope had pleaded not guilty to allegations he forced the woman to perform oral sex on him and raped her in a South Melbourne alleyway after the two left a party at Collingwood player John McCarthy's nearby townhouse.

The rape trial heard that Mr Pope told police he drank beer and shots at a football function linked to the Collingwood Football Club on the day of the Grand Final replay on October 2 before drinking some more at Eve Nightclub.

He and the woman ended up at the townhouse party.

Collingwood player Dayne Beams gave evidence at the trial, saying he saw Mr Pope and the woman holding hands and kissing.

The trial was told that after the sexual encounter, Mr Pope and the woman exchanged phone numbers and caught a cab together.

Mr Pope embraced family and friends after he walked from the dock.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/fraser-pope-acquitted-of-post-grand-final-rape-charges/news-story/6ed58e07e5d724434e2a75ed7a8cc287>

<http://archive.is/Gx37T>