

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

27th January
Pre-Season 2008, No.3

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How Well Do You Know Your Football Foreheads?

To whom do these famous foreheads belong?

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A Waft of Liniment

Is it just me or did others find that we had a much shorter 'down' time this year for the Xmas break? I can remember years when things slowed perceptibly in the early weeks of December and didn't really pick up again until about now, just after Australia Day. That certainly didn't seem to be the case this year.

Anyway, I hope you've all had (or, better yet, are still having) a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Before I dive into matters footballian, I'd like to relate something that I came across in a book on Performance Appraisals that I was reading recently. There was a section on adverbs that might prove helpful for anyone whose job it was to describe the performance of one of their team. Most of the suggestions were fairly standard and pedestrian – 'carefully', 'accurately', 'diligently' and so on – but one suggestion stopped me short. If anyone can drop me an e-mail explaining exactly how the word 'mortally' might reasonably be worked into a sentence in a performance appraisal I'd be very appreciative.

Perhaps: *'Genghis has mortally affected the outcome of all projects in which he has been involved'*.

I can't even come up with a plausible word for which 'mortally' could reasonably be seen as a typo-induced alternative. 'Morally' maybe, but that doesn't seem to fit a performance appraisal any more than does 'mortally'.

Anyway, on to football. It's now just a few days until the pre-season competition commences and a couple of months until the Cats start their title defence.

In the last newsletter we looked at some aspects of the history of the AFL and reviewed the Funds that will trade this year. In this newsletter we'll determine which AFL regular season was the closest ever, which the least close (what is the opposite of 'close' in a sporting sense?), and we'll also review what resources I'll be offering this year to help you with your tipping. And, yes, before you ask, Quila will be tipping again this year. She's a dog – she knows no shame.

Here's a statistical tidbit. The table below shows, using data for seasons 1999-2007, the difference in the success rate for each team for games immediately following a game in which it scored more than 100 points compared with those games immediately following a game in which it scored 100 points or fewer.

Difference in Team Success Rate After Scoring more than 100 points in previous week

< 0%	0% < +10%	+10% or more
Kangaroos (-5%; 52% v 57%)	Collingwood (+2%; 47% vs 45%)	Richmond (+11%; 47% vs 36%)
St Kilda (-5%; 41% vs 46%)	Fremantle (+4%; 46% vs 42%)	W Bulldogs (+12%; 50% vs 38%)
Hawthorn (-3%; 43% vs 46%)	Adelaide (+4%; 58% vs 54%)	Melbourne (+13%; 53% vs 40%)
West Coast (-1%; 54% vs 55%)	Sydney (+5%; 59% vs 54%)	Geelong (+15%; 61% vs 46%)
	Essendon (+6%; 60% vs 54%)	Port Adelaide (+16%; 70% vs 54%)
	Carlton (+8%; 41% vs 33%)	Brisbane Lions (+19%; 68% vs 49%)

Probably the most interesting information here is the huge 'kick' that a few teams get in the week immediately following games in which they've scored more than 100 points. (For the statisticians amongst us, only the differences in the rightmost column are statistically significant – for the Tigers and the Dogs at the 10% level, for the Cats and the Dees at 5%, and for Port and the Lions at 1%.)

The Pre-Season Competition

The NAB Cup is scheduled to start on the 9th of February with Collingwood taking on Adelaide somewhere in Dubai. According to <http://www.geobytes.com/CityDistanceTool.htm>, Melbourne and Dubai are separated by 11,677 km, while Adelaide and Dubai are but 11,027 km apart, making Dubai, I suppose, marginally more of an Adelaide home game, purely on the basis that Crows' fans won't have as far to travel. Or something like that.

Whilst there's enjoyment to be had in watching pre-season games - where the scores resemble IP addresses (sorry, geek joke, and if I have to explain it, it won't be funny) - history shows that there's only a very limited amount to be learned from these games about teams' chances for the season proper.

Across the 20 years of pre-season competition, the winners in March have also been the winners in September on just 4 occasions, the most recent of these being Essendon way back in 2000. What's more, pre-season winners have been regular-season runners-up just twice, and the most recent of these was even further back, in 1998.

Looking next at pre-season runners-up across the two decades we find that they've collected just one regular-season premiership and three runners-up medallions amongst them.

More recent results have proved no more encouraging. The last 3 years' pre-season finalists have produced a single runner-up, a preliminary finalist, two 10th-place finishers, a spoon winner and a spoon runner-up.

Pre-Season Finalists (1988-2007)

Year	Pre-Season Premiers	Position in Season Proper	Pre-Season Runners-Up	Position in Season Proper
1988	Hawthorn	Premiers	Geelong	10 th
1989	Melbourne	Semi-Finalist	Geelong	Runners-Up
1990	Essendon	Runners-Up	North Melbourne	6 th
1991	Hawthorn	Premiers	North Melbourne	8 th
1992	Hawthorn	Elim Finalist	Fitzroy	10 th
1993	Essendon	Premiers	Richmond	14 th
1994	Essendon	10 th	Adelaide	11 th
1995	North Melbourne	Prelim Finalist	Adelaide	11 th
1996	St Kilda	10 th	Carlton	Semi-Finalist
1997	Carlton	11 th	Geelong	Semi-Finalist
1998	North Melbourne	Runners-Up	St Kilda	Semi-Finalist
1999	Hawthorn	9 th	Port Adelaide	Qual-Finalist (Wk 1)
2000	Essendon	Premiers	Kangaroos	Prelim Finalist
2001	Port Adelaide	Semi-Finalist	Brisbane Lions	Premiers
2002	Port Adelaide	Prelim Finalist	Richmond	14 th
2003	Adelaide	Semi-Finalist	Collingwood	Runners-Up
2004	St Kilda	Prelim Finalist	Geelong	Prelim Finalist
2005	Carlton	16 th (Spoon)	West Coast	Runners-Up
2006	Geelong	10 th	Adelaide	Prelim Finalist
2007	Carlton	15 th	Brisbane Lions	10 th

For those of you who might have missed it in the previous newsletter, here's the pre-season draw again.



Glorious Uncertainty

Some contend that what gives sport its unique attraction as an entertainment is its uncertainty. No matter how often you watch the film or read the play, Romeo and Juliet never wind up happily married with 2.3 kids and an aqueduct but, occasionally, an out-of-form team that's been winless for months will lift just enough to knock off the competition-leaders, ideally carrying some Heritage Fund money with it.

If sporting outcomes were pre-ordained, far fewer would watch, as evidenced, for example, by the huge ratings differential between live and replayed matches. The demand for at least the possibility of surprise probably helps to explain at least some of the abhorrence that sports lovers feel about match-fixing (really, match-scripting) and the players involved in it.

So, thinking then about levels of uncertainty, which AFL season do you think was the most uncertain, that is, the most evenly contested?

The first challenge we have in answering this question statistically is to come up with a measure of evenness, or what the academics call "competitive balance".

Though a number of measures leap to mind – the percentage of competition points won by the first Z teams, the number of games decided by X points or fewer, the difference in competition points scored by the team coming first and the team coming last – a recent, simple, and I think quite intuitive measure from the academic literature is the oddly named NAMSIs, which is short for NAtional Measure of Seasonal Imbalance.

The NAMSIs uses teams' win-loss records as its only data source and is based on the following approach to the issue of balance. What is the most plausible but extreme version of imbalance possible? It's when the team that finishes first beats everyone, the teams that finishes second beats everyone except the team that finishes first, and so on, all the way down to the team that finishes last who beats nobody. Such a competition would yield a defined spread of winning percentages across all the participating teams. We compare the spread of winning percentages that we actually see with this worst case spread and the closer the actual spread is to the worst case spread, the more imbalanced was the season.

Alternatively, the most balanced result possible is where all teams win exactly one-half of their matches, which means that there is no spread at all in their winning percentages since they're all 50%.

So, having defined the two extremes of balance, the NAMSIs tells us how close we are to either extreme. Values closer to zero mean more balance, and values closer to one mean less balance.

*(If anyone's interested in the technical details, Google "Goosens" + "Seasonal Imbalance". In his paper you'll see that the NAMSIs, as he defines it, doesn't strictly pertain to AFL because not all teams play each other an equal number of times [*ahem*]. I've made 'appropriate' adjustments and approximations to deal with this.)*

What then does the NAMSIs suggest was the least balanced season in, say, the last 20? The table at right has the answer: 1991, which was the year that West Coast topped the table with a 19-3 record and Hawthorn and Geelong finished second and third, both managing 16-6 records, while, at the foot of the ladder, Fitzroy went 4-18 and the Brisbane Bears returned 3-19. Put another way, the top third of teams bagged just under one-half of all competition points and the bottom third accumulated less than 20%. That's imbalanced.

The following season, 1992, was almost as imbalanced, with Geelong, Footscray and Collingwood all atop the league with 16-6 records, and the cellar-dwelling Brisbane Bears and Sydney managing just 4-1-17 and 3-1-18 respectively.

Most balanced of the previous 20 seasons was, by some distance, 1997, in which St Kilda and Geelong led the league with records of just 15-7, the teams finishing 3rd to 13th all managed at least 10 wins, 14th managed 9 wins, 15th managed 8 wins and last-placed Melbourne managed 4 wins. Here the top 25% of teams garnered less than one-third of all competition points and the bottom 25% managed almost 18%.

NAMSIs (AFL 1988-2007)

Year	NAMSIs	Rank
1988	0.570	15
1989	0.608	7
1990	0.620	6
1991	0.654	1
1992	0.653	2
1993	0.599	11
1994	0.490	18
1995	0.626	5
1996	0.631	4
1997	0.393	20
1998	0.446	19
1999	0.583	13
2000	0.602	9
2001	0.632	3
2002	0.548	17
2003	0.605	8
2004	0.600	10
2005	0.548	16
2006	0.598	12
2007	0.571	14

The three most recent years have all been quite close, though none has approached the balance of the 1997 season.

NAMSI (AFL - 1897-2007 by decade)

Years	Average	Median	Max	Year	Min	Year
2000-2007	0.588	0.599	0.632	2001	0.548	2005
1990-1999	0.570	0.609	0.654	1991	0.393	1997
1980-1989	0.640	0.618	0.800	1981	0.529	1983
1970-1979	0.625	0.629	0.773	1972	0.470	1976
1960-1969	0.706	0.713	0.864	1966	0.553	1961
1950-1959	0.629	0.667	0.784	1955	0.373	1957
1940-1949	0.659	0.664	0.801	1942	0.512	1940
1930-1939	0.767	0.767	0.844	1934	0.674	1938
1920-1929	0.703	0.767	0.867	1929	0.508	1922
1910-1919	0.711	0.738	0.817	1913	0.468	1917
1900-1909	0.665	0.696	0.777	1901	0.488	1907
1897-1899	0.817	0.802	0.871	1897	0.777	1898
All Seasons	0.666	0.674	0.871	1897	0.373	1957
1986-2007	0.580	0.600	0.654	1991	0.393	1997
1946-1985	0.655	0.667	0.864	1966	0.373	1957

The table at left gives some historical context to the NAMSI figures above.

From it you can see that the last two decades of football have been, on average, the closest since the competition began. It seems to me less than coincidental that these decades postdate the introduction of the pre-season draft in a form similar to that which we now know. This took place in 1986.

According to the NAMSI measure, the 1997 season was only the second-most balanced

season ever. Top spot goes to the 1957 season in which 12 teams took part, each playing 18 games. Melbourne, who were minor premiers, managed only 12-1-5 and the next three teams all recorded 11-7 performances. Both of the teams propping up the ladder – Geelong and Fitzroy – picked up competition points in one-third of their games.

But what's a best without a worst?

The most imbalanced season ever according to the NAMSI measure was the first season, 1897, though 1929 and 1966 do have legitimate claims. In 1897, only 8 teams participated, each playing 14 games. Geelong and Essendon both finished on 11-3 to head the table, and the remaining teams went very close to recording the pattern of 10, 8, 6, 4, 2 and 0 wins required to deliver the 'worst case' outcome (the actual result was 10, 9, 8, 4, 2 and 0).

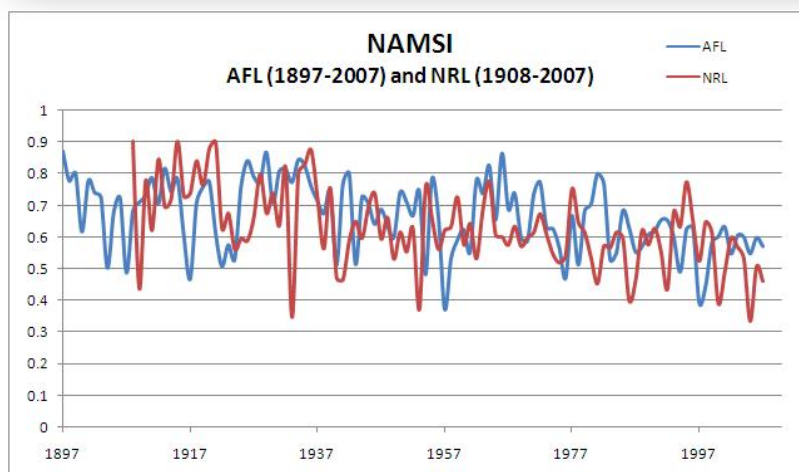
Those of you who follow League can get some additional context for these results from the table at right that provides the equivalent NAMSI data for the NRL. Also, the chart below shows the AFL and NRL NAMSI figures for every season of each competition.

NAMSI (NRL - 1908-2007)

Years	Average	Median	Max	Year	Min	Year
2000-2007	0.487	0.499	0.598	2002	0.337	2005
1990-1999	0.615	0.631	0.774	1995	0.438	1992
1980-1989	0.541	0.570	0.621	1988	0.401	1986
1970-1979	0.612	0.612	0.753	1977	0.521	1975
1960-1969	0.621	0.605	0.775	1964	0.534	1962
1950-1959	0.614	0.626	0.758	1954	0.373	1953
1940-1949	0.600	0.597	0.738	1946	0.466	1941
1930-1939	0.709	0.747	0.874	1936	0.349	1933
1920-1929	0.697	0.669	0.899	1921	0.563	1924
1910-1919	0.763	0.751	0.901	1915	0.622	1911
1908-1909	0.670	0.670	0.902	1908	0.439	1909
All Seasons	0.629	0.619	0.902	1908	0.337	2005

Across the entire history of the NRL this competition has been slightly more balanced than the AFL. Since 2000 it has been, on average, considerably more balanced.

Indeed, the 2005 NRL season was the most balanced NRL season in history. In this season, 15 teams took part, each playing 24 games. No team won more than 16 of its matches, and no team won fewer than 8. The top 8 teams - the finalists - all won at least one-half of their matches and the team finishing last missed out on the finals by just 4 games. It's hard to argue that this wasn't an amazingly close season.



Tipping Algorithms for 2008

This year, as was the case last season, Chi and Quila will provide tips for each game of the season. Other tipsters that we'll follow again are BKB (Bookie Knows Best), based on the Sportsbet Bookie's favourite on Wednesday afternoon or thereabouts, and CTL (Consult the Ladder), whose tips for each game are determined by the relevant teams' ladder positions.

We'll also be tracking the progress of a range of MM (Momentum Matters) models, which, you might recall from last year, tip based on looking only at the last X regular-season matches. So, for example, MM2's tips are based solely on the performance of teams in the previous 2 rounds, where performance is measured by competition points accumulated, with percentage acting as the tiebreaker in the event that both teams have accumulated equal competition points. Where an MM model requires information about more rounds than have been played in the current season, regular season rounds from the previous season are used. So, for example, for the first round of 2008, MM2 will use the final two regular-season rounds of 2007.

Last year, though, we tracked only the models MM2 through MM22. This year we'll extend this to include models MM23 through MM44. I'm doing this for two reasons. Firstly because, as you might also recall from an earlier newsletter, there's correlation in the ladders from season to season, so it's logical to assume that results from as far back as two years ago might have some predictive validity for the current year. Secondly because, as it turns out, they do.

Performance of MM2 to MM44 Models in 2007

Models	# Correct	%
15, 16	113.5	64.5%
14	111.5	63.4%
21	110.5	62.8%
31, 32, 33	109.5	62.2%
18, 34	108.5	61.6%
20, 35, 37, 39	107.5	61.1%
7, 13, 17, 19, 29, 30	106.5	60.5%
9, 12, 22, 23, 36, 38, 40, 42, 43	105.5	59.9%
10, 26, 27, 28, 41	104.5	59.4%
4, 5, 8, 24	103.5	58.8%
11, 44	102.5	58.2%
6, 25	101.5	57.7%
3	100.5	57.1%
2	93.5	53.1%

The table at left shows how each of the MM models performed across all regular season games in 2007. MM15 and MM16 did best, each recording 113½ wins. Only a handful of wins behind though were MM31, MM32, MM33, MM34, MM35, MM37 and MM39.

In fact, looking back over the seven seasons 2001-2007, the best performing MM models are fairly evenly divided between those using only one season's data or less (ie MM2 through MM22) and those using more than one season's data (ie MM23 through MM44).

The best performing model across the period 2001-2007 is MM16 which recorded a 64% accuracy rate. Next, tied, are MM15 and MM30 with 63.3%, then MM31 with 63.1%, MM20 with 62.8% and then MM14 and MM23 with 62.7%.

As well as tracking the fortunes of the 43 MM models we'll also follow a variety of Super MM models, each constructed by cannily combining the tips from a number of MM models. These Super Models have had historical accuracy rates across the period 2001-2007 ranging from 65.5% for SM3, based on combining just 3 MM models, to an incredible 69.2% for SM33, based on – yes – 33 MM models, each suitably weighted.

A substantial portion of SM33's exceptional record can be attributed to its 130-46 (74%) performance in 2001, but its more recent record has also been solid, averaging 120.7 (69%) correct tips per season over the period 2005-2007.

The table at right shows the performance of each of the Super Models in season 2007 and goes some way, I hope, to explaining what makes them "Super".

Nonetheless, my prediction is that few, if any, of these SM models will do exceptionally well in 2008 since they've been selected solely on the basis that they best 'fit' the last 7 season's results. In modelling terms they're likely to 'overfit' the historical data and therefore not generalise well to data

Performance of Super Models in 2007

Models	# Correct	%
SM33	121.5	69.0%
SM16	120.5	68.5%
SM8, SM9	119.5	67.9%
SM7	118.5	67.3%
SM6, SM13	117.5	66.8%
SM21, SM23	116.5	66.2%
SM3, SM11, SM19	115.5	65.6%
SM5	114.5	65.1%
SM4	113.5	64.5%

(ie rounds) they haven't 'seen'. It should be fun to watch.

There's another tipping model that we'll be following this year: The Über Model. Even the Super Models talk about it in hushed tones. It comprises 32 rules – of the form 'if MMx tips Team A and MMy tips Team B and MMz tips Team A, then tip Team A' - which it uses to arrive at its prognostications. Using these same 32 rules it would have tipped at 71% over the period 2001-2007, including a 123½ (70%) result for 2007. It has out-tipped every MM model over the past seven seasons and every Super Model bar one for the past six seasons, failing only in 2003 when it tied with SM23.

The Über Model takes overfitting to ridiculous dimensions. Twenty of its 32 rules have historically applied to less than 2% of games and only 3 rules have applied to more than 8% of games. That said, its three most general rules, which, collectively, have applied to about 59% of games, have a combined success rate in excess of 72%. Nonetheless, I predict that The Über Model will also not have an exceptional year's tipping. In fact, I'll go further and predict that it'll tip around 103 winners this year, well down on its seven-season average of 125.6. Go on, prove me wrong.

Which brings us to the final tipping model of the year: The Simplified Über Model, which is a significantly cut down version of The Über Model, using just 4 rules. What it loses in historical accuracy (it's tipped at 'only' 67% over the period 2001-2007) I believe it'll make up in its ability to generalise to the season ahead. Historically, about 85% of its tips have mirrored those of The Über Model, so the key will be what happens in the other 15%.

To drift momentarily into Class A geekdom, the duel between The Über Model and The Simplified Über Model is a quintessential modelling battle. Almost always, we modellers wonder how much we should err towards fitting the data that's been ladled into our modelling bowl and how much, in so doing, we've wound up building a model that's great for autopsies or archeology but lousy for projections. Sure, there are ways of reducing the likelihood that we'll overfit the original dataset, but The Future is the final arbiter of our modelling competence.

So, to summarise, this year's tipping models will be:

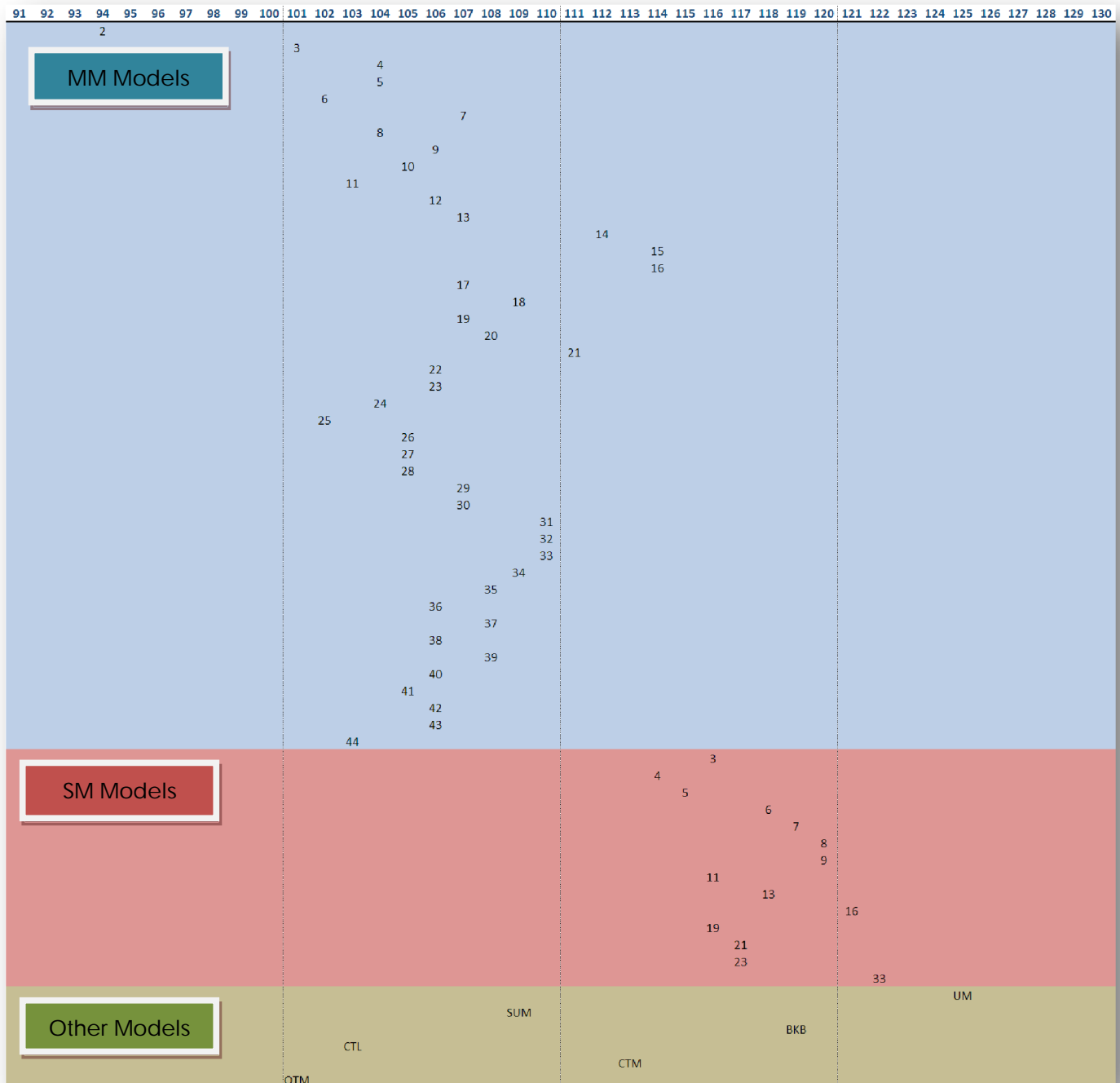
Tipping Models	Number of Models	Basis for Tipping	Historical Performance and Commentary
CTM (The Chi Tipping Model)	1	Uses the same algorithm as last year (which I'm still not revealing)	Impressive first year of live tipping. Should do well though up in class this season.
QTM (The Quila Tipping Model)	1	Also uses the same algorithm as last year (which I'm also still not revealing, though I doubt it has much of a street value at this point)	Provided last season's comedy relief. Tips like the token newspaper 'celebrity' tipster, though her celebrity is geographically narrow.
BKB (Bookie Knows Best)	1	Based on the Sportsbet Wednesday afternoon favourite	Solid tipster year after year. Always the one to beat.
CTL (Consult the Ladder)	1	Selects the team with the higher ladder position, using last season's final regular-season ladder for week 1	Finished mid-table last year. Will hope for a year of few upsets.
MM2 to MM44	43	Considers only the past X regular-season matches (where X is the number following the MM), using previous seasons' results where necessary. Tips that team in each game with the best record over that period using, firstly, competition points accumulated, then points for divided by points against.	Varies considerably across the 43 models. MM15 and MM16 have fine pedigree, however, and should do well again this season. MM2 is expected to battle with QTM for spoon honours.
SMx (SM3, SM4, SM5, SM6, SM7, SM8, SM9, SM11, SM13, SM16, SM19, SM21, SM23, SM33)	14	Linearly combines the tips of x underlying MM models, with x ranging from 3 to 33	All chosen for their stunning historical performance. Might struggle a little with fresh data, though SMs using fewer underlying MMs might be worth an each-way flutter.
The Über Model	1	Comprises 32 rules that combine the predictions of some of MM2 to MM44	Unimpeachable record but some doubt about its staying ability.
The Simplified Über Model	1	Comprises 4 rules that combine the predictions of some of MM2 to MM44	Strong but not flawless at recent starts. Likely to do well at this distance.

I'll admit, that's a lot of tipping models (the first of many statements of the painfully obvious I'll feel compelled to make this year). The cynics in our midst will probably be thinking that I've plumped for so many models purely to maximise the likelihood of my future ability to trumpet the performance of at least a few of the models as the season progresses.

So, let me make my predictions now: MM16, SM3 and The Simplified Über Model will all do well, and by well I mean tip at least 65% of winners over the course of the regular season. Cynics be damned.

Before leaving the tipping models, let's review their 2007 performance side-by-side. In the diagram below, the further to the right a model's name appears the better it performed in 2007 (the number of correct tips can be read off the strip that runs across the top of the diagram).

Performance of All Models in 2007



This diagram highlights the extent to which the performances of MM15 and MM16 stood out amongst the MM models last year, but still fell short of the SM models' performances. Also, the superior performance of The Über Model (shown as UM in the diagram) and the talent of the Sportsbet bookie (BKB) is apparent.

Pre-Season Bookmakers' Prices

There's still not a lot happening in the various bookmaker markets, as the table below attests.

Team	Bookmakers' Prices (23rd Jan v 31st Dec)					
	Premiership Winner			Final 8	Wooden Spoon	
	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet	TAB	TAB	Centrebet
Geelong	3.20 -	3.25 -	3.30 -	1.06 -	301.00 -	251.00 -
Fremantle	10.00 -	11.00 -	11.00 -	1.35 L	101.00 -	81.00 -
Collingwood	10.00 -	9.00 -	10.00 -	1.35 -	71.00 -	67.00 -
Port Adelaide	11.00 L	11.00 -	11.00 -	1.38 -	71.00 -	67.00 -
Hawthorn	10.00 -	10.00 -	11.00 -	1.40 -	71.00 -	67.00 -
St Kilda	11.00 S	13.00 -	13.00 -	1.40 -	51.00 -	51.00 -
West Coast	12.00 -	12.00 -	12.00 -	1.40 -	35.00 -	26.00 -
Sydney	16.00 -	17.00 -	14.00 -	1.70 L	31.00 -	34.00 -
Adelaide	21.00 L	15.00 -	17.00 -	2.00 L	26.00 -	26.00 -
Brisbane Lions	21.00 -	21.00 -	23.00 -	2.00 -	17.00 -	17.00 -
Carlton	31.00 -	21.00 -	26.00 -	2.20 -	13.00 -	13.00 -
Kangaroos	31.00 -	26.00 -	34.00 -	2.65 L	7.50 -	8.00 -
Western Bulldogs	35.00 -	34.00 -	41.00 -	2.30 -	6.50 -	7.50 -
Essendon	35.00 -	51.00 -	51.00 -	3.00 L	5.00 -	4.75 L
Melbourne	41.00 -	41.00 -	41.00 -	3.75 S	4.00 -	5.50 -
Richmond	51.00 -	67.00 -	81.00 -	4.00 -	4.00 -	4.25 -
Over-round	20.1%	20.8%	15.8%	12.5%	29.7%	20.9%

(L = Lengthened, S = Shortened relative to 31st December prices)

All but one of the movements – Centrebet's revising of the Dons' spoon chances – have been recorded by Sportsbet, and the movements there have been a trifle odd, presumably due to the small dollar volume of wagers at this point of the season. Otherwise, it's hard to explain how a team's chances of making the eight can change whilst the likelihood of it winning the flag hold firm, and, conversely how a team's flag fortunes can alter independently of its finals prospects.

It's a little early to be flagging any value in the various markets, but the variability being displayed in relation to Sydney's and Adelaide's Premiership hopes is, at the very least, interesting. But you don't, I recognise, make money gambling on interesting discrepancies.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Healy: Word is this guy is the most reliable kick for goal in the side. They say down at Collingwood if you had to have someone kicking for your life, Tarkyn Lockyer would be the man

Commetti: I'd prefer my mum

(silence)

Commetti: Not a great footballer, but at least she'd care.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

(By the way, last month I talked about back-to-back flags and, in the text, erroneously stated that the second most recent example was the Hawks' 1988 and 1989 efforts. Actually it was the Crows' 1997 and 1998 wins. Thanks to Daniel for picking this up.)

'til next time,

Tony

27 January 2008