


Looking at football
from a different
point of view



MAFL 2008

4th September
Qualifying & Elimination Finals 2008

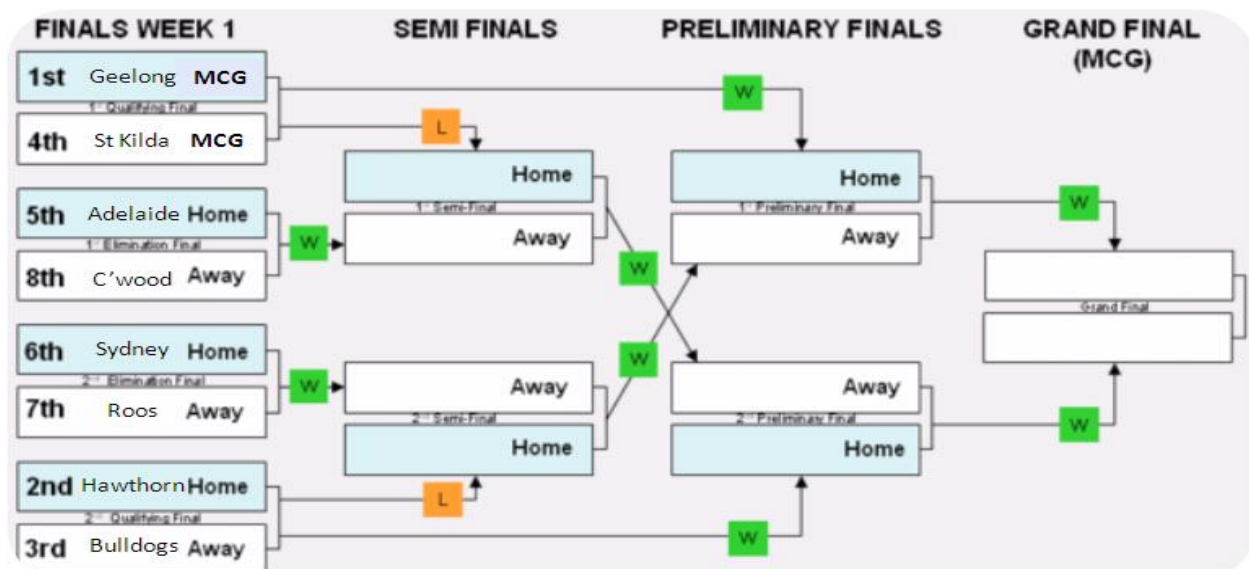
Qualifying and Elimination Finals

2nd Qualifying Final		
HAW 6-0	 Hawthorn	 W Bulldogs
(MCG, 5th September 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.30	\$3.35
	70% - 77%	23% - 30%
	Hawthorn -19½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Hawthorn by 16 (Game of the Round)	
Quila	Hawthorn by 22	
Shadow	Hawthorn	
CTL	Hawthorn	
MARS	Hawthorn	

2nd Elimination Final		
ADE 6-0	 Adelaide	 Collingwood
(Football Park, 6th September 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.60	\$2.25
	56% - 63%	38% - 44%
	Adelaide -9½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Adelaide by 17	
Quila	Adelaide by 15	
Shadow	Adelaide	
CTL	Adelaide	
MARS	Adelaide	

1st Elimination Final		
SYD 6-0	 Sydney	 Kangaroos
(Stadium Aust, 6th September 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.68	\$2.10
	52% - 60%	40% - 48%
	Sydney -6½ pts (\$1.93/\$1.87)	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Sydney by 18	
Quila	Sydney by 11	
Shadow	Sydney	
CTL	Sydney	
MARS	Sydney	

1st Qualifying Final		
GEE 6-0	 Geelong	 St Kilda
(MCG, 7th September 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.14	\$5.25
	81% - 88%	12% - 19%
	Geelong -32½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	14.66% (14.78%) on St Kilda	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Geelong by 16 (Game of the Round)	
Quila	Geelong by 12	
Shadow	Geelong	
CTL	Geelong	
MARS	Geelong	



This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

Heritage Fund Investors – you were warned.

Just one bet this weekend and it's on the Saints head-to-head against the Cats.

Think of it this way: if the Saints do spring the upset of the season you'll have bragging rights for years to come.

Here's what we've got:

1. *Heritage Fund: St Kilda 14.66% @ \$5.25 against Geelong*

How extraordinary it is that we can wager against the Saints one week and get \$5.75, then wager on them the following week and be offered \$5.25.

If my data is accurate, \$5.25 is the highest price that's been offered for a team in the finals series since Sydney was at \$6.50 against Port Adelaide in 2003 (a game which, by the way, Sydney won).

Last year's highest price during the finals was the \$3.65 offered about Collingwood against Geelong in the Prelim Finals. The year before that it was the \$2.85 offered for Melbourne against Freo in the Semi Finals.

The tables below give the Heritage Fund's record so far this season.

HERITAGE FUND						
Team Wagered On	Bets	Win	Lose	% Outlayed	% ROI	% RONF
Adelaide	1	-	1	7.8%	(100.0%)	(7.8%)
Brisbane Lions	1	-	1	8.6%	(100.0%)	(8.6%)
Carlton	6	1	5	48.5%	(11.4%)	(3.1%)
Collingwood	3	2	1	24.1%	126.8%	33.5%
Essendon	9	2	7	69.0%	(26.2%)	(22.1%)
Fremantle	3	1	2	16.8%	(0.4%)	(1.5%)
Geelong	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawthorn	1	-	1	6.3%	(100.0%)	(6.3%)
Kangaroos	4	2	2	29.4%	11.9%	0.9%
Melbourne	11	3	8	97.5%	(24.8%)	(25.2%)
Port Adelaide	3	1	2	35.6%	72.8%	25.9%
Richmond	6	1	5	60.9%	(9.8%)	(9.8%)
St Kilda	4	2	2	26.8%	53.8%	12.0%
Sydney	2	-	2	16.8%	(100.0%)	(16.8%)
West Coast	8	3	5	69.4%	17.0%	10.6%
Western Bulldogs	2	2	-	11.8%	148.3%	17.4%
Total	64	20	44	529.2%	1.7%	(0.8%)

The table at left shows the Fund's record with each team when wagering on that team.

So, for example, it shows that the Heritage Fund has wagered on the Saints 4 times this year for 2 wins and 2 losses. Overall, these 4 wagers have lifted the Heritage Fund price by 12c, making St Kilda the 4th most profitable team for the Heritage Fund, behind Collingwood, Port Adelaide and the Bulldogs.

The table at right shows the Fund's record with each team when wagering against that team.

It shows that the Heritage Fund has wagered against the Cats 13 times this season, winning only once and knocking a staggering 93.4c off the share price in so doing.

The Cats have been, comfortably, the most value-destroying team for the Heritage Fund this year. A Cats loss this weekend would go a little over half-way to redressing this.

HERITAGE FUND						
Team Wagered Against	Bets	Win	Lose	% Outlayed	% ROI	% RONF
Adelaide	5	2	3	29.4%	25.8%	8.2%
Brisbane Lions	2	2	-	14.2%	244.7%	34.8%
Carlton	2	-	2	11.4%	(100.0%)	(11.4%)
Collingwood	7	4	3	64.5%	82.3%	50.6%
Essendon	1	1	-	4.4%	145.0%	6.3%
Fremantle	1	1	-	7.2%	270.0%	19.3%
Geelong	13	1	12	138.6%	(69.6%)	(93.4%)
Hawthorn	8	2	6	80.2%	(6.6%)	(9.0%)
Kangaroos	6	2	4	48.7%	71.5%	31.6%
Melbourne	-	-	-	-	-	-
Port Adelaide	1	-	1	5.7%	(100.0%)	(5.7%)
Richmond	3	-	3	21.1%	(100.0%)	(21.1%)
St Kilda	4	3	1	29.5%	146.9%	43.7%
Sydney	2	-	2	12.6%	(100.0%)	(12.6%)
West Coast	1	1	-	5.1%	105.0%	5.3%
Western Bulldogs	8	1	7	56.6%	(83.2%)	(47.6%)
Total	64	20	44	529.2%	1.7%	(0.8%)

Tips

Throughout the finals only six tipsters will operate: BKB, Chi, Quila, MARS, Shadow and CTL. In the unlikely event that Shadow is forced to use the Extended Performance rule, he will use the teams' positions as they were at the end of the regular season. CTL will also use these positions throughout the finals.

Here's what we have this week:

Hawthorn v Bulldogs (Hawthorn 6-0)

The bookmakers, Chi and Quila are all likish-minded about this game, having it as a 2½ to 3½ goal Hawks victory. This sort of margin is about as close as it gets this weekend for Chi though so he has this game as his (joint) Game of the Round.

Adelaide v Collingwood (Adelaide 6-0)

Here too the level of agreement amongst the bookies, Chi and Quila is quite high, though the Dogs are more confident about a Crows victory than are the bookies.

Sydney v Kangaroos (Sydney 6-0)

Chi has this game down as a 3-goal win for the Swans, Quila has it down as about a 2-goal win, and the bookies have it as about a 1-goal win.

Still, they all agree – as does MARS, CTL and Shadow – that it'll be the Swans progressing to the Semi Finals to meet the loser of the Hawks v Dogs clash.

Geelong v St Kilda (Geelong 6-0)

Though we again have unanimity amongst the tipsters for this game we also have the widest disparity in tipped margins. The bookies are giving the Saints almost 5½ goals start, Quila predicts the Cats by 2 goals, and Chi predicts the Cats by a bit over 2½ goals, which is sufficiently tight for him to have this game as his other joint Game of the Round.

A Few Loose Ends

Throughout the course of the season, you'll recall, I've been tracking the scoring patterns of winning and losing teams relative to a randomly selected time in each quarter and relative to the start and end of each quarter.

The first table, at right, shows that, across all quarters, winning teams have scored first after a randomly chosen time 57% of the time, enough to make the Proposition Bet that I offered way back at the start of the season very profitable.

Had I made the Proposition Bet that you'd tell me the first goal scorer after the randomly selected time then the bet would have been even more lucrative, since winning teams have scored the next goal after a randomly chosen time in the quarter 60% of the time.

Quarter	Winning Team is First Scorer After Random Time	Winning Team is First Goal Scorer After Random Time
1	53%	58%
2	59%	62%
3	55%	54%
4	60%	65%
All	57%	60%

Interestingly, knowledge about the first scorer after a randomly chosen time would have been more valuable if it was in relation to 2nd or 4th quarters than if it was in relation to 1st or 3rd quarters. In fact, telling me who scored the first goal after a randomly chosen time in the final term would have been an incredibly useful piece of information, allowing me to accurately predict the winner in almost two-thirds of the matches.

How important is it, you might wonder, that I ask you to use a random time rather than, say ask you to tell me the first or the last scorer in a quarter?

The answer to this question can be explored by analysing the table on the next page, which shows that, generally speaking, knowledge about the first or last point scorer, or of the first or last goal scorer in a particular quarter (or overall), is less useful than knowing the equivalent fact for a randomly chosen time in the same quarter.

(So, for example, I'd rather you told me who scored first after a randomly selected time in the 4th quarter than about who scored first or last in the 4th quarter.)

Quarter	Winning Team is First Scorer in Quarter	Winning Team is First Goal Scorer in Quarter	Winning Team is Last Scorer in Quarter	Winning Team is Last Goal Scorer in Quarter
1	50%	55%	54%	52%
2	51%	54%	55%	61%
3	53%	57%	55%	60%
4	56%	61%	51%	59%
All	53%	57%	54%	58%

An entry-for-entry comparison of this table with the earlier one shows that:

- Knowledge about the first scorer in a quarter is never more valuable than knowledge about the first scorer after a randomly chosen time
- Knowledge about the first goal scorer in a quarter is only more valuable than knowledge about the first goal scorer after a randomly chosen time if this knowledge relates to the 3rd quarter
- Knowledge about the last scorer in a quarter is only more valuable than knowledge about the first goal scorer after a randomly chosen time if this knowledge relates to the 1st quarter (it's equally as valuable if it relates to the 3rd quarter)
- Knowledge about the last goal scorer in a quarter is only more valuable than knowledge about the first goal scorer after a randomly chosen time if this knowledge relates to the 3rd quarter

That said my Proposition bet would still be profitable if I stipulated that you told me the first or the last scorer in some quarter, provided you didn't decide to tell me the first scorer in the 1st quarter from which information I could do barely better than a coin toss in predicting the eventual winner.

Another statistic that we've looked at before is the percentage of goals, behinds and scoring shots that accrue to winning teams. When first I calculated these statistics at the start of the season I was amazed at the similarity of them across recent seasons.

This year – a year which has been atypical in so many respects – the amazement continues. The detail is in the table at right and shows that, yet again, winning teams have racked up about 57% of all scoring shots, 60% of all goals and 54% of all behinds. I simply cannot come up with any plausible reason why this phenomenon – which I'll dub The Law of Winners' Scoring – should persist.

	% of Scoring Shots		% of Goals Scored		% of Behinds Scored	
	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers
2008	57%	43%	60%	40%	54%	46%
2007	57%	43%	59%	41%	54%	46%
2006	57%	43%	60%	40%	53%	47%
2005	57%	43%	60%	40%	53%	47%
2004	58%	42%	60%	40%	56%	44%
2003	57%	43%	59%	41%	54%	46%
2002	57%	43%	59%	41%	55%	45%
2001	58%	42%	60%	40%	55%	45%
2000	58%	42%	60%	40%	55%	45%

Suggestions on the back of an envelope please.

Team Rating System

This week MARS is tipping all 4 favourites.

For the MARS-favoured teams to at least preserve their current Ratings Points they need to win by the following margins:

- Hawks by 10 points or more
- Sydney by 8 points or more
- Adelaide by 3 points or more
- Geelong by 22 points or more

With a thumping victory over the Saints, Geelong can pick up around 4.3 ratings points this week, leaving them just 2½ ratings points short of Essendon's record highest rating in 2000 of 1,072.7.

An upset Collingwood victory by 4 points or more would be enough for them to jump over the Crows on the MARS table. Alternatively, should results be more as predicted there's a good chance that the Crows will leapfrog the Saints this weekend.

Team	End R22
Geelong	1,065.8
Hawthorn	1,033.6
Western Bulldogs	1,014.6
Sydney	1,013.4
St Kilda	1,013.3
Adelaide	1,012.3
Collingwood	1,011.1
Kangaroos	1,000.0
Port Adelaide	998.3
Fremantle	995.1
Brisbane Lions	992.7
Richmond	992.1
Carlton	982.8
Essendon	971.3
West Coast	959.2
Melbourne	944.7

Bookmakers' Prices

Geelong continue to impress the bookies (among others) and are now at prices ranging from \$1.35 to \$1.42 across the three markets we've been tracking.

Hawthorn remain on the 2nd line of betting, some \$3 to \$3.40 further back.

Moving swiftly on to the 3rd line of betting are the Saints, largely on the strength of their demolition of the Dons last weekend, but also partly due to their general good form leading up to the finals.

Interested in creating a Dutch Book for yourself? One way to do it this week would be to completely discount the chances of all the teams that finished 5th to 8th plus the chances of either the Saints or the Bulldogs.

Then, taking the best price on offer from each of the three bookies listed here would leave a book totalling 97.36%, which, with suitably weighted wagers, would provide a 'guaranteed' profit of about 2.7% of the amount wagered should any of your three selected teams be successful.

Alternatively, if you're certain that either the Cats or the Hawks will win the flag then you can create a book totalling just 91.48% and offering a 'guaranteed' 9.3% return.

This week we lose 2 more pairings from the GF Quinella market, it now being impossible for Sydney and the Roos or Adelaide and the Pies to meet in the Grand Final.

The shortest-priced pairing remains Cats v Hawks, which has firmed 40c this week in to \$1.80. A Cats v Saints GF is now on the 2nd line of betting, in \$2 to \$6, the only other pairing with a single digit price.

One of the huge movers from last week to this week is the Cats v Roos matchup. Last week it was \$5 and on the 2nd line of betting; this week it's \$34 and on the 10th line of betting.

The shortest-priced GF not involving the Cats remains Hawks v Dogs, which is in \$7 this week to \$13.

'til Sunday,

Tony

4 September 2008

Team	(3rd September v 27th August)		
	Premiership Winner		
	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet
Geelong	1.35 S	1.40 S	1.42 L
Hawthorn	4.60 S	4.75 S	4.50 S
St Kilda	16.00 S	17.00 S	17.00 S
Western Bulldogs	17.00 L	15.00 L	17.00 L
Sydney	31.00 S	26.00 S	26.00 S
Collingwood	34.00 L	31.00 L	31.00 L
Adelaide	34.00 -	26.00 -	36.00 L
Kangaroos	41.00 L	34.00 L	36.00 L
Over-round	19.5%	18.9%	17.0%

	Haw	StK	WB	Ade	Col	Kan	Syd
Geelong	1.8	6	10	11	13	34	34
Hawthorn		21	13	34	34	31	31
St Kilda			41	71	151	101	101
Western Bulldogs				110	101	151	151
Adelaide					xx	251	251
Collingwood						251	201
Kangaroos							xx