

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

1st June
Round #10.1 2008

Round 10 Results

65 Correct		Adelaide v Essendon (Football Park, 30th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.07	\$7.50	87% - 93% 7% - 13%
	Adelaide -42½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Adelaide by 37		
Quila	Adelaide by 41		
Shadow	Adelaide		
CTL	Adelaide		
MARS	Adelaide		
MM	Adelaide (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Adelaide (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Adelaide		
Simplified	Adelaide		
Result	Adelaide 9.20 (74) def Essendon 10.9 (69)		

61 Correct		Collingwood v West Coast (MCG, 31st May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.18	\$4.50	78% - 85% 15% - 22%
	Collingwood -27½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Collingwood by 23		
Quila	Collingwood by 31		
Shadow	Collingwood		
CTL	Collingwood		
MARS	Collingwood		
MM	Collingwood (39-4) (Dissenters: MM40,41,43,44)		
Super MM	Collingwood (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Collingwood		
Simplified	Collingwood		
Result	Collingwood 27.11 (173) def West Coast 10.13 (73)		

0 Correct		Hawthorn v Bulldogs (Aurora Stadium, 31st May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.42	\$2.70	63% - 70% 30% - 37%
	Hawthorn -13½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Won 7.01% (9.25%)		
Quila	Hawthorn by 8		
Shadow	Hawthorn by 11		
CTL	Hawthorn		
MARS	Hawthorn		
MM	Hawthorn (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Hawthorn		
Simplified	Hawthorn		
Result	W Bulldogs 15.16 (106) def Hawthorn 12.2 (74)		

9 Correct		Bris Lions v Kangaroos (Gabba, 31st May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.20	\$4.20	76% - 83% 17% - 24%
	Bris Lions -25½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Brisbane Lions by 16		
Quila	Brisbane Lions by 14		
Shadow	Kangaroos		
CTL	Kangaroos		
MARS	Brisbane Lions		
MM	Kangaroos (40-3) (Dissenters: MM2-4)		
Super MM	Kangaroos (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Brisbane Lions		
Simplified	Brisbane Lions		
Result	Brisbane Lions 18.21 (129) def. Kangaroos 15.8 (98)		

62 Correct		Carlton v Geelong (Docklands, 31st May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$6.50	\$1.10	9% - 15% 85% - 91%
	Carlton +39½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) Lost 13.55% (13.64%)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Geelong by 11		
Quila	Geelong by 4		
Shadow	Geelong		
CTL	Geelong		
MARS	Geelong		
MM	Geelong (41-2) (Dissenters: MM2,3)		
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Geelong		
Simplified	Carlton		
Result	Geelong 19.19 (133) def. Carlton 12.5 (77)		

65 Correct		Sydney v Richmond (SCG, 1st June 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.18	\$4.50	78% - 85% 15% - 22%
	Sydney -27½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Sydney by 19		
Quila	Sydney by 10		
Shadow	Sydney		
CTL	Sydney		
MARS	Sydney		
MM	Sydney (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Sydney (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Sydney		
Simplified	Sydney		
Result	Sydney 21.13 (139) def. Richmond 8.9 (57)		

65 Correct		St Kilda v Melbourne (Docklands, 1st June 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.28	\$3.50	71% - 78% 22% - 29%
	St Kilda -22½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	St Kilda by 21		
Quila	St Kilda by 25		
Shadow	St Kilda		
CTL	St Kilda		
MARS	St Kilda		
MM	St Kilda (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	St Kilda (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	St Kilda		
Simplified	St Kilda		
Result	St Kilda 19.15 (129) def. Melbourne 7.8 (50)		

60 Correct		Fremantle v Pt Adelaide (Subiaco, 1st June 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.90	\$1.85	46% - 53% 47% - 54%
	Fremantle +6½ pts (\$1.72 / \$2.10)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Port Adelaide by 10		
Quila	Port Adelaide by 12		
Shadow	Port Adelaide		
CTL	Port Adelaide		
MARS	Port Adelaide		
MM	Port Adelaide (40-3) (Dissenters: MM2,40,41)		
Super MM	Port Adelaide (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Fremantle		
Simplified	Fremantle		
Result	Port Adelaide 16.7 (103) def. Fremantle 10.15 (75)		

Round 10 Statistics		
Scoring	Winners	Losers
Goals	88	59
Behinds	87	37
Ave Score	84.9	56.9
Ave Marg	28.0	
Qtrs Won	Winners	Losers
1st	6	2
2nd	8	0
3rd	6	2
4th	5.5	2.5
Qtr Leads	Winners	Losers
End of 1st	6	2
End of 2nd	7	1
End 3rd	7	1
Tipping	Tipster	Score
1st	BKB	61
2nd	CTM, MARS	59
Last	MM35,41,43,44	46
Ave Score	5.95 (Std Dev = 0.51)	

Results in Review

MAFL Funds

Though Geelong again started slowly, it was too much to expect the Blues to provide four-quarter entertainment. Indeed, the best the Blues could manage was to stay within 10 goals of the Cats, which, whilst it might have preserved some team pride, wasn't nearly good enough to provide a return on MAFL Investors' head-to-head wager.

Our only other bet for the weekend, a Line bet on the Bulldogs with 13½ points start, was considerably more successful. The Dogs won outright, inflicting the first defeat for the season on the Hawks and making for fascinating viewing when the bookies reframe the Premiership market this week.

Overall, most Investors suffered a small loss this week, leaving them in the respective positions shown in the table at right.

Next weekend, I expect, will resemble a Heritage Fund Going Out of Business Sale, with the Roos at home to the Cats, the Tigers at home to the Crows, the Dons at home to Hawthorn, the Eagles at home to Sydney, the Saints at home to the Bulldogs, and the Dees at home to Collingwood. We'll probably need two or three of those to finish as upsets in order to eke out a profit.

Surprisal

Based on surprisals, this was the season's fifth "Very Predictable" round.

Investor #	Profit/Loss (%)
001	(13.95%)
002	(14.16%)
003	(12.70%)
004	(12.70%)
005	(15.90%)
006	(12.70%)
007	(12.70%)
008	(12.70%)
009	(12.70%)
010	-
011	-
012	(12.70%)
013	(12.70%)
014	(12.70%)
015	(8.64%)
016	(12.70%)

Round	Average Surprisal per Winner (bits)	Number of Games included in Average	Number of Victorious Favourites	Ave MAFL Tipster Performance (SD in brackets)
1	0.84 (Predictable)	8	5	4.54 (0.59)
2	0.75 (Very Predictable)	8	7	5.06 (0.77)
3	0.83 (Predictable)	8	6	5.49 (0.77)
4	1.10 (Unpredictable)	8	5	4.37 (0.86)
5	0.73 (Very Predictable)	7	6	5.58 (1.00)
6	0.49 (Very Predictable)	7	7	6.05 (0.61)
7	0.88 (Somewhat Predictable)	8	6	4.77 (0.93)
8	0.55 (Very Predictable)	8	7	7.09 (0.72)
9	1.16 (Unpredictable)	8	4	3.35 (0.87)
10	0.57 (Very Predictable)	8	7	5.95 (0.51)

During the week someone asked me if, based on surprisals, 2008 has been much different from 2007.

It certainly has. Averaged across all regular-season games, excluding draws, the average surprisal in 2007 was 0.92 bits per game. This season, excluding the draws, it's been 0.80 bits per game.

One way to think about that difference is that it's the same difference that would have been achieved had all the teams that won in 2007 had a victory probability of 53% and had all the teams that won this year had a victory probability of 58%.

Tipping

This weekend was a return to normality for MAFL tipsters, with 7 out of 8 favourites proving successful and the average tipster score leaping to 5.95, over 2½ tips higher than last weekend.

Score	# Tipster
7	5
6	54
5	4
4	2

The breakdown of tipster performance appears in the table at right.

No tipster predicted the Bulldogs' win and only 9 were on the correct side of the Lions v Roos clash. For many these were the only two problematic games.

The Round's best tipsters were BKB, Chi, Quila, MARS and MM4, each of whom scored 7. The worst tipsters were MM40 and MM41, who both managed only 4.

Running totals for all tipsters appear in pictorial form in Appendix 1.

To provide a benchmark against which to compare MAFL tipsters, I thought I'd take a look at the performance of the expert tipsters who appear in The Age and The Herald Sun each week.

Rank	Paper	Tipster	Score	Rank	Paper	Tipster	Score	Rank	Paper	Tipster	Score
1	Herald Sun	Jason Akermanis	66	35	The Age	Rohan Connolly	55	69	MAFL	MM4	52
1	Herald Sun	Mark Stevens	66	35	MAFL	MM5	55	69	MAFL	MM9	52
3	The Age	Michael Voss	63	35	MAFL	MM8	55	69	The Age	Dwayne Russell	52
3	Herald Sun	Scott Gullan	63	35	The Age	Ashley Porter	55	69	MAFL	MM21	52
3	Herald Sun	Sam Edmund	63	35	MAFL	MM17	55	69	MAFL	MM25	52
6	The Age	Jake Niall	62	35	MAFL	SM3	55	69	MAFL	MM29	52
6	Herald Sun	Mark Robinson	62	35	MAFL	SM5	55	75	MAFL	MM10	51
6	Herald Sun	Grantley Bernard	62	35	MAFL	SM6	55	75	MAFL	MM14	51
9	Herald Sun	Gerard Healy	61	35	MAFL	SM23	55	75	MAFL	MM18	51
9	Herald Sun	Jon Ralph	61	44	MAFL	MM6	54	75	MAFL	MM20	51
9	Herald Sun	Bruce Matthews	61	44	The Age	Rex Hunt	54	75	MAFL	MM23	51
9	MAFL	BKB	61	44	The Age	Michael Gleeson	54	75	MAFL	MM24	51
13	Herald Sun	Garry Lyon	60	44	Herald Sun	Jim Wilson	54	75	MAFL	MM27	51
13	The Age	Samantha Lane	60	44	MAFL	MM16	54	75	MAFL	MM28	51
13	Herald Sun	Daryl Timms	60	44	The Age	Emma Quayle	54	75	MAFL	MM31	51
16	Herald Sun	Mike Sheahan	59	44	MAFL	SM11	54	75	MAFL	MM36	51
16	The Age	Caroline Wilson	59	44	MAFL	SM13	54	85	Herald Sun	Glenn Archer	50
16	Herald Sun	Dermott Brereton	59	44	MAFL	SM19	54	85	MAFL	MM12	50
16	The Age	Graeme Bond	59	44	MAFL	SM33	54	85	MAFL	MM19	50
16	Herald Sun	Rebecca Williams	59	44	MAFL	STM	54	85	MAFL	MM30	50
16	MAFL	CTM	59	55	MAFL	MM3	53	89	MAFL	MM22	49
16	MAFL	MARS	59	55	Herald Sun	James Hird	53	89	MAFL	MM32	49
23	The Age	Nathan Buckley	58	55	MAFL	MM11	53	89	MAFL	MM34	49
23	Herald Sun	Damian Barrett	58	55	The Age	Peter Hanlon	53	89	MAFL	MM37	49
23	Herald Sun	Jon Anderson	58	55	MAFL	MM13	53	89	MAFL	MM39	49
23	Herald Sun	Jon Pierik	58	55	MAFL	MM15	53	94	MAFL	MM33	47
27	The Age	Robert Walls	57	55	MAFL	MM26	53	94	MAFL	MM38	47
27	MAFL	CTL	57	55	MAFL	SM4	53	94	MAFL	MM40	47
27	MAFL	QTM	57	55	MAFL	SM7	53	94	MAFL	MM42	47
30	MAFL	MM2	56	55	MAFL	SM8	53	98	MAFL	MM35	46
30	MAFL	MM7	56	55	MAFL	SM9	53	98	MAFL	MM41	46
30	The Age	Richard Hinds	56	55	MAFL	SM16	53	98	MAFL	MM43	46
30	Herald Sun	Michael Horan	56	55	MAFL	SM21	53	98	MAFL	MM44	46
30	MAFL	SUM	56	55	MAFL	UM	53				

As you can see, a number of Herald Sun tipsters have performed better than BKB, as have a couple of tipsters from The Age. Jason Akermanis and Mark Stevens head the pack, each tipping at an incredible 82½%.

Amongst this group of 101 tipsters, Chi and MARS are currently tied for 16th, and Quila is 4 tips ahead of James Hird. Surely that's gotta give my dogs some bragging rights while out walking this week.

(By the way if you're trying to match the scores shown here with those printed in next Friday's paper, please note that The Herald Sun gives all tipsters a score of 1 for draws and The Age gives all tipsters a score of 0. So, to make the scores comparable with MAFL's in which we give all tipsters a score of ½ for a draw, I've added 1 to all scores in The Age and subtracted 1 from all scores in The Herald Sun).

Team Quarter-by-Quarter Analysis

Here are the teams' quarter-by-quarter performance details.

RESULT AT END OF EACH QUARTER BY TEAM

	Quarter 1								Quarter 2								Quarter 3								Quarter 4							
	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%
Adelaide	11	3	2	5	16	203	201	101.0	7	6	0	4	24	436	377	115.6	4	7	0	3	28	721	595	121.2	4	7	0	3	28	988	842	117.3
Brisbane Lions	5	7	0	3	28	252	230	109.6	9	5	0	5	20	544	448	121.4	10	4	0	6	16	841	723	116.3	7	6	0	4	24	1095	983	111.4
Carlton	6	6	1	3	26	252	238	105.9	8	6	0	4	24	528	484	109.1	13	4	0	6	16	721	773	93.3	11	4	0	6	16	968	1071	90.4
Collingwood	7	5	0	5	20	263	236	111.4	2	7	0	3	28	585	456	128.3	1	8	0	2	32	862	657	131.2	6	6	0	4	24	1173	932	125.9
Essendon	15	2	0	8	8	159	301	52.8	15	3	0	7	12	409	636	64.3	14	2	0	8	8	689	924	74.6	14	2	0	8	8	876	1241	70.6
Fremantle	14	3	0	7	12	235	220	106.8	11	4	0	6	16	454	491	92.5	7	6	0	4	24	714	696	102.6	15	1	0	9	4	888	1043	85.1
Geelong	8	5	0	5	20	236	227	104.0	4	7	0	3	28	519	439	118.2	2	8	0	2	32	806	626	128.8	2	9	0	1	36	1091	841	129.7
Hawthorn	9	5	0	5	20	231	234	98.7	6	6	0	4	24	496	422	117.5	3	8	0	2	32	826	691	119.5	1	9	0	1	36	1160	890	130.3
Kangaroos	4	6	2	2	28	258	190	135.8	13	3	0	7	12	443	509	87.0	8	5	0	5	20	722	745	96.9	8	5	1	4	22	957	987	97.0
Melbourne	16	1	0	9	4	151	297	50.8	16	1	0	9	4	305	623	49.0	16	0	0	10	0	460	950	48.4	16	1	0	9	4	751	1281	58.6
Port Adelaide	10	4	1	5	18	278	237	117.3	5	6	0	4	24	564	462	122.1	11	4	0	6	16	792	751	105.5	10	4	0	6	16	1024	1016	100.8
Richmond	13	3	1	6	14	221	277	79.8	12	4	0	6	16	465	537	86.6	9	5	0	5	20	709	829	85.5	12	3	1	6	14	977	1057	92.4
St Kilda	3	7	0	3	28	272	199	136.7	10	4	1	5	18	494	465	106.2	12	4	0	6	16	700	718	97.5	9	5	0	5	20	969	965	100.4
Sydney	1	8	0	2	32	275	174	158.0	1	7	1	2	30	512	361	141.8	6	6	0	4	24	746	527	141.6	5	6	1	3	26	1007	738	136.4
West Coast	12	4	0	6	16	188	244	77.0	14	3	0	7	12	387	547	70.7	15	2	0	8	8	568	831	68.4	13	2	0	8	8	772	1085	71.2
Western Bulldogs	2	7	1	2	30	283	252	112.3	3	7	0	3	28	602	486	123.9	5	7	0	3	28	916	757	121.0	3	8	1	1	34	1246	970	128.5

QUARTERS WON, DRAWN & LOST BY TEAM

	Quarter 1								Quarter 2								Quarter 3								Quarter 4							
	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%
Adelaide	11	3	2	5	16	203	201	101.0	3	8	0	2	32	233	176	132.4	5	5	2	3	24	285	218	130.7	8	5	0	5	20	267	247	108.1
Brisbane Lions	5	7	0	3	28	252	230	109.6	5	7	0	3	28	292	218	133.9	9	5	0	5	20	297	275	108.0	15	2	1	7	10	254	260	97.7
Carlton	6	6	1	3	26	252	238	105.9	10	4	0	6	16	276	246	112.2	14	4	0	6	16	193	289	66.8	13	3	1	6	14	247	298	82.9
Collingwood	7	5	0	5	20	263	236	111.4	1	8	0	2	32	322	220	146.4	4	6	0	4	24	277	201	137.8	5	6	0	4	24	311	275	113.1
Essendon	15	2	0	8	8	159	301	52.8	12	4	0	6	16	250	335	74.6	11	4	0	6	16	280	288	97.2	14	3	0	7	12	187	317	59.0
Fremantle	14	3	0	7	12	235	220	106.8	11	4	0	6	16	219	271	80.8	6	6	0	4	24	260	205	126.8	16	1	0	9	4	174	347	50.1
Geelong	8	5	0	5	20	236	227	104.0	2	8	0	2	32	283	212	133.5	2	7	0	3	28	287	187	153.5	3	6	1	3	26	285	215	132.6
Hawthorn	9	5	0	5	20	231	234	98.7	4	7	0	3	28	265	188	141.0	7	5	0	5	20	330	269	122.7	1	9	0	1	36	334	199	167.8
Kangaroos	4	6	2	2	28	258	190	135.8	15	2	0	8	8	185	319	58.0	1	8	0	2	32	279	236	118.2	11	4	0	6	16	235	242	97.1
Melbourne	16	1	0	9	4	151	297	50.8	16	1	0	9	4	154	326	47.2	16	1	0	9	4	155	327	47.4	12	4	0	6	16	291	331	87.9
Port Adelaide	10	4	1	5	18	278	237	117.3	7	6	0	4	24	286	225	127.1	13	4	0	6	16	228	289	78.9	9	5	0	5	20	232	265	87.5
Richmond	13	3	1	6	14	221	277	79.8	9	4	1	5	18	244	260	93.8	10	5	0	5	20	244	292	83.6	7	5	0	5	20	268	228	117.5
St Kilda	3	7	0	3	28	272	199	136.7	13	3	0	7	12	222	266	83.5	12	4	0	6	16	206	253	81.4	6	6	1	3	24	269	247	108.9
Sydney	1	8	0	2	32	275	174	158.0	8	5	0	5	20	237	187	126.7	3	7	0	3	28	234	166	141.0	4	6	1	3	26	261	211	123.7
West Coast	12	4	0	6	16	188	244	77.0	14	2	0	8	8	199	303	65.7	15	2	2	6	12	181	284	63.7	10	5	0	5	20	204	254	80.3
Western Bulldogs	2	7	1	2	30	283	252	112.3	6	6	1	3	26	319	234	136.3	8	5	0	5	20	314	271	115.9	2	8	0	2	32	330	213	154.9

This week the Hawks lost their first game and their first final term, though they still have the best 4th quarter record of any team. Sydney have the best 1st quarter record, Collingwood the best 2nd quarter record, and the Roos the best 3rd quarter record.

Turning from best to worst, Fremantle, in losing their fifth straight game after leading at the final change, lost yet another final term this week, cementing their position as the team with the worst 4th quarter record. Melbourne owns the worst records for the three other quarters.

Not surprisingly then, Melbourne also own the worst overall record, as shown in the table at right.

The Bulldogs now have the best overall quarter-by-quarter record and the Swans and the Cats share second.

And, still, the eight teams with the best overall quarter-by-quarter records make up the top 8 of the competition ladder.

	Total Quarters Won				
	R	W	D	L	Pts
Adelaide	6	21	4	15	92
Brisbane Lions	7	21	1	18	86
Carlton	11	17	2	21	72
Collingwood	5	25	0	15	100
Essendon	15	13	0	27	52
Fremantle	13	14	0	26	56
Geelong	2	26	1	13	106
Hawthorn	4	26	0	14	104
Kangaroos	8	20	2	18	84
Melbourne	16	7	0	33	28
Port Adelaide	10	19	1	20	78
Richmond	11	17	2	21	72
St Kilda	9	20	0	20	80
Sydney	2	26	1	13	106
West Coast	13	13	2	25	56
Western Bulldogs	1	26	2	12	108

Team Ratings Update

Two of this week's results produced large ratings points shifts: the Pies' 100-point victory over the Eagles was worth +5.3 points, and the Swans' 82-point victory over the Tigers was worth +5.0 points.

In other results, the Bulldogs' win yielded +3.7 points, the Cats' was worth +3.0, the Lions' scored +2.4, and Port's earned +2.3. Essendon were the other gainers, picking up +1.5 points as a result of their unexpectedly narrow loss to the Crows.

The table below has the current Ratings details.

Team	Initial	Δ R1	Δ R2	Δ R3	Δ R4	Δ R5	Δ R6	Δ R7	Δ R8	Δ R9	Δ R10	End R10
Geelong	1,027.4	+0.3	+5.4	+0.3	+2.7	+3.0	-1.4	+0.9	+1.1	-7.5	+3.0	1,035.2
Sydney	1,010.7	-0.3	+5.4	+1.2	+4.4	-3.0	-0.4	-2.5	+4.6	+0.9	+5.0	1,026.0
Collingwood	1,004.0	+2.2	-0.3	+3.4	-3.5	-1.1	+5.1	-5.0	+0.9	+7.5	+5.3	1,018.4
Hawthorn	1,002.9	+5.5	+1.4	+1.4	+3.8	+0.8	-0.1	+5.0	-0.2	-0.2	-3.7	1,016.7
Adelaide	1,008.4	-0.8	+6.0	-0.1	-3.8	+0.8	+1.7	+2.4	+4.2	-5.5	-1.5	1,011.8
Western Bulldogs	988.4	+0.8	+6.3	+3.5	+2.7	-0.8	+4.6	+2.5	+0.0	-0.8	+3.7	1,011.0
Port Adelaide	1,007.4	-0.3	-5.4	+0.1	-2.3	+2.4	+1.7	+4.8	+0.2	-0.9	+2.3	1,009.9
Brisbane Lions	999.6	-1.0	+0.3	-1.2	+2.3	-0.8	+3.1	-0.9	+2.4	+3.6	+2.4	1,009.8
Kangaroos	1,000.7	-5.4	+3.7	-1.4	+3.6	+1.1	+0.4	-2.4	-0.0	+0.8	-2.4	998.7
St Kilda	1,001.0	+0.3	+2.3	-3.5	-2.7	+2.7	-1.7	-0.3	-0.9	-3.6	+5.0	998.6
Fremantle	1,004.0	-2.2	-1.4	+1.6	-6.5	-0.8	+1.4	-1.6	+0.0	-1.4	-2.3	990.9
Richmond	986.3	+2.6	-3.7	-3.4	+6.5	+0.8	+0.1	+0.3	-1.1	+3.0	-5.0	986.4
West Coast	1,006.6	+1.0	-6.0	-1.6	-4.4	-2.4	-4.6	-4.2	+0.0	+5.5	-5.3	984.7
Carlton	975.2	-2.6	-2.3	-0.5	+3.5	+3.2	-1.7	+4.2	-2.4	+1.4	-3.0	975.0
Essendon	990.0	+5.4	-5.4	+0.5	-2.7	-2.7	-5.1	-4.8	-4.6	-3.0	+1.5	969.3
Melbourne	987.2	-5.5	-6.3	-0.3	-3.6	-3.2	-3.1	+1.6	-4.2	+0.2	-5.0	957.8

The MARS top eight are now edging away from the remaining teams. The gap between 8th and 9th is now over 11 points.

Team	Initial	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Geelong	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydney	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
Collingwood	6	7	5	5	5	5	5	7	7	5	3
Hawthorn	8	3	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	3	4
Adelaide	3	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Western Bulldogs	13	13	12	10	6	8	6	6	6	8	6
Port Adelaide	4	6	7	7	9	7	7	5	5	6	7
Brisbane Lions	11	10	11	11	8	10	9	8	8	7	8
Kangaroos	10	12	10	12	7	6	8	9	9	9	9
St Kilda	9	9	6	8	10	9	10	10	10	10	10
Fremantle	7	8	9	6	12	11	11	11	11	11	11
Richmond	15	14	14	14	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
West Coast	5	4	8	9	11	12	13	13	13	13	13
Carlton	16	16	16	16	15	15	15	14	14	14	14
Essendon	12	11	13	13	14	14	14	15	15	15	15
Melbourne	14	15	15	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16

The MARS Top 8 has now contained the same teams for the past 4 weeks. It comprises:

1. Geelong (no change)
2. Sydney (no change)
3. Collingwood (up 2)
4. Hawthorn (down 1)
5. Adelaide (down 1)
6. Western Bulldogs (up 2)
7. Port Adelaide (down 1)
8. Brisbane Lions (no change)

A comparison of MARS Ratings with the competition ladder yields four teams that are ranked at least 3 places lower on MARS than on the competition ladder:

- Hawthorn, who are 1st on the ladder but 4th on MARS
- The Bulldogs, who are 3rd on the ladder but 6th on MARS
- Carlton, who are 11th on the ladder but 14th on MARS
- Melbourne, who are 11th on the ladder but 16th on MARS

It also yields four more teams that are ranked at least 3 places higher on MARS than on the competition ladder.

- Sydney, who are 5th on the ladder but 2nd on MARS
- Collingwood, who are 6th on the ladder but 3rd on MARS
- Port Adelaide, who are 10th on the ladder but 7th on MARS
- Fremantle, who are 15th on the ladder but 11th on MARS

To consider the extent to which these differences might be at least in part explained by differences in the average strength of the teams played by each team, I've put together the following table.

Team	# Times Away	Based on Opponents' Rating at Time of Game		Based on Opponents' Rating at End of Round 10	
		Ave Opponent Rating*	Rank (1 = Easiest Draw)	Ave Opponent Rating*	Rank (1 = Easiest Draw)
Adelaide	4	988.3	1	987.9	1
Brisbane Lions	4	1,000.9	14	1,000.1	11
Carlton	4	996.6	6	994.3	6
Collingwood	5	996.3	5	994.0	5
Essendon	5	999.6	12	1,004.6	16
Fremantle	5	997.7	9	998.2	8
Geelong	7	993.5	2	990.7	2
Hawthorn	4	995.8	4	993.2	4
Kangaroos	6	997.0	7	996.2	7
Melbourne	5	999.5	11	1,003.9	14
Port Adelaide	6	1,002.9	16	1,003.9	13
Richmond	7	999.0	10	1,000.5	12
St Kilda	3	994.8	3	998.4	9
Sydney	5	1,000.1	13	998.9	10
West Coast	4	1,001.2	15	1,004.3	15
Western Bulldogs	5	997.4	8	991.6	3

** adjusted by adding 5 ratings points to opponents if they are playing at home*

It shows, for example, for Adelaide, the average MARS Ratings scores of the teams that they've met is 988.3 (adding 5 points on to the opponent's rating if Adelaide played them on the opponent's home ground). This first calculation uses the ratings that the teams had in the week that they met Adelaide. If, instead, we use each team's rating as at the end of Round 10, the average changes to 987.9.

On either measure, Adelaide has had the easiest draw of all 16 teams.

Using the first set of average scores – since these best reflect how MARS would have assessed each team's opponents at the time they met them – we can explain some of the differences between current MARS ratings and the competition ladder:

- Hawthorn, the Bulldogs and Carlton are ranked lower by MARS because they've all had better than average draws so far this season. Hawthorn's draw has been 4th easiest, Carlton's 6th easiest and the Bulldogs' 8th easiest.
- Sydney, Port Adelaide and Fremantle are ranked higher by MARS because they've all had worse than average draws so far this season. Port Adelaide's draw has been the worst of all team's, Sydney's draw has been 4th worst, and Freo's has been 8th worst.

This leaves only Melbourne's and Collingwood's discrepancies unexplained. Both are due to the ratings that each carried into season 2008. Melbourne came in with 987.2 points, almost 13 points below the average, and Collingwood came in with 1004 points, 4 points above the average.

So, as I said last week, the differences between MARS Ratings and ladder positions can be explained partly by differences in the strengths of the draws that each team has faced and partly by differences in the ratings points that each carried into the season. As the season progresses I'd expect more of the discrepancies to be due to schedule strength and less to be due to start-of-season ratings.

We'll check on this again a bit later in the year.

Speaking of the competition ladder, here's how it now looks:

Team	Pts	%	GF	BF	PF	Acc %	Rank	GA	BA	PA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hawthorn	36	130.3	171	134	1,160	56.1%	6	130	110	890	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	L
Geelong	36	129.7	158	143	1,091	52.5%	11	121	115	841	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	L	W
Western Bulldogs	34	128.5	186	130	1,246	58.9%	2	144	106	970	W	W	W	W	D	W	W	W	L	W
Adelaide	28	117.3	140	148	988	48.6%	16	122	110	842	L	W	W	L	W	W	W	W	L	W
Sydney	26	136.4	147	125	1,007	54.0%	10	104	114	738	L	W	W	W	L	D	L	W	W	W
Collingwood	24	125.9	174	129	1,173	57.4%	5	137	110	932	W	L	W	L	L	W	L	W	W	W
Brisbane Lions	24	111.4	156	159	1,095	49.5%	15	144	119	983	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	W	W
Kangaroos	22	97.0	140	117	957	54.5%	9	142	135	987	L	W	L	W	W	D	L	W	W	L
St Kilda	20	100.4	142	117	969	54.8%	8	144	101	965	W	W	L	L	W	L	W	L	L	W
Port Adelaide	16	100.8	152	112	1,024	57.6%	3	150	116	1,016	L	L	L	L	W	W	W	L	L	W
Carlton	16	90.4	142	116	968	55.0%	7	158	123	1,071	L	L	L	W	W	L	W	L	W	L
Richmond	14	92.4	146	101	977	59.1%	1	154	133	1,057	W	L	L	W	D	L	L	L	W	L
West Coast	8	71.2	110	112	772	49.5%	13	161	119	1,085	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	W	L
Essendon	8	70.6	130	96	876	57.5%	4	182	149	1,241	W	L	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Fremantle	4	85.1	128	120	888	51.6%	12	151	137	1,043	L	L	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Melbourne	4	58.6	107	109	751	49.5%	14	185	171	1,281	L	L	L	L	L	L	W	L	L	L

No team now has a winning streak that extends beyond 3 games and only 2 teams have losing streaks that are any longer than 3 games.

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

The 'If Only' Chronicle

Did you know that if you had wagered ...

- \$1 on every favourite so far this year you'd be \$4.75 in front (that's a 5.9% ROI)
- \$1 on every Quila tip you'd be \$3.41 in front (a 4.3% ROI)
- \$1 on every Chi tip you'd be \$1.35 in front (a 1.7% ROI)

(the irony of that last fact is not lost on me. Somehow we've managed to wager on 4 of Chi's 10 incorrect tips across the 48 games he's been trading. Statistically, there's only about 10% chance of us doing this).

I suggest all MAFL Investors with a Heritage Fund component in their portfolio get ready for a huge weekend.

'til Thursday,

Tony

1 June 2008

