

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

10th July
Round #15 2008

Round 15

STK 54-11		Carlton v St Kilda	
		(MCG, 11th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.93	\$1.80	
	44% - 52%	48% - 56%	
Carlton -6½ pts (\$2.15/\$1.70)*			
Heritage	-	-	
Alpha	-	-	
Beta	-	-	
Chi	-	-	
Line	-	-	
Chi	St Kilda by 17		
Quila	St Kilda by 16		
Shadow	St Kilda		
CTL	St Kilda		
MARS	St Kilda		
MM	St Kilda (33-10)		
	(Dissenters: MM3, 4, 6-13)		
Super MM	St Kilda (14-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Carlton		
Simplified	St Kilda		

COL 51-14		Collingwood v Adelaide	
		(MCG, 12th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.33	\$3.10	
	68% - 75%	25% - 32%	
Collingwood -18½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	-	-	
Alpha	-	-	
Beta	-	-	
Chi	-	-	
Line	7.79% (8.83%) on Adelaide		
Chi	Collingwood by 11		
Quila	Collingwood by 8		
Shadow	Adelaide		
CTL	Collingwood		
MARS	Collingwood		
MM	Collingwood (30-13)		
	(Dissenters: MM13, 15-20, 23, 25-26, 29-30, 35)		
Super MM	Collingwood (14-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Collingwood		
Simplified	Collingwood		

GEE 65-0		Geelong v Fremantle	
		(Kardinia Park, 12th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.05	\$8.50	
	88% - 95%	5% - 12%	
Geelong -46½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	-	-	
Alpha	-	-	
Beta	-	-	
Chi	-	-	
Line	-	-	
Chi	Geelong by 13		
Quila	Geelong by 18		
Shadow	Geelong		
CTL	Geelong		
MARS	Geelong		
MM	Geelong (43-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Geelong (14-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Geelong		
Simplified	Geelong		

BL 58-7		Essendon v Bris Lions	
		(Docklands, 12th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$2.35	\$1.55	
	35% - 43%	57% - 65%	
Essendon +11½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	5.79% (32.23%) on Essendon		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Brisbane Lions by 16		
Quila	Brisbane Lions by 14		
Shadow	Essendon		
CTL	Brisbane Lions		
MARS	Brisbane Lions		
MM	Brisbane Lions (39-4)		
	(Dissenters: MM2-5)		
Super MM	Brisbane Lions (14-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Essendon		
Simplified	Essendon		

KAN 63-2		Pt Adelaide v Kangaroos	
		(Football Park, 12th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.90	\$1.83	
	45% - 53%	47% - 55%	
Pt Adelaide -6½ pts (\$2.08 / \$1.75)*			
Heritage	-	-	
Alpha	-	-	
Beta	4.68% (7.98%) on Port Adelaide		
Chi	-	-	
Line	-	-	
Chi	Kangaroos by 14		
Quila	Kangaroos by 10		
Shadow	Kangaroos		
CTL	Kangaroos		
MARS	Port Adelaide		
MM	Kangaroos (42-1)		
	(Dissenters: MM40)		
Super MM	Kangaroos (14-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Kangaroos		
Simplified	Kangaroos		

HAW 54-11		Hawthorn v Sydney	
		(MCG, 13th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.38	\$2.90	
	66% - 72%	28% - 34%	
Hawthorn -17½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	-	-	
Alpha	-	-	
Beta	-	-	
Chi	-	-	
Line	7.79% (8.83%) on Sydney		
Chi	Hawthorn by 2 (Game of the Round)		
Quila	Sydney by 5		
Shadow	Hawthorn		
CTL	Hawthorn		
MARS	Hawthorn		
MM	Hawthorn (37-6)		
	(Dissenters: MM3, 5-8, 23)		
Super MM	Hawthorn (10-4)		
	(Dissenters: SM19, 21, 23, 33)		
Uber MM	Hawthorn		
Simplified	Hawthorn		

WB 65-0		W Bulldogs v Melbourne	
		(Docklands, 13th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.08	\$7.00	
	86% - 93%	7% - 14%	
W Bulldogs -42½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	-	-	
Alpha	-	-	
Beta	-	-	
Chi	-	-	
Line	-	-	
Chi	Western Bulldogs by 15		
Quila	Western Bulldogs by 29		
Shadow	Western Bulldogs		
CTL	Western Bulldogs		
MARS	Western Bulldogs		
MM	Western Bulldogs (43-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Western Bulldogs (14-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Western Bulldogs		
Simplified	Western Bulldogs		

RIC 41-24		West Coast v Richmond	
		(Subiaco, 13th July 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.90	\$1.83	
	45% - 53%	47% - 55%	
West Coast -6½ pts (\$2.00/\$1.80)*			
Heritage	-	-	
Alpha	-	-	
Beta	-	-	
Chi	-	-	
Line	-	-	
Chi	Richmond by 24		
Quila	Richmond by 19		
Shadow	Richmond		
CTL	Richmond		
MARS	Richmond		
MM	West Coast (24-19)		
	(Dissenters: MM2-20)		
Super MM	Richmond (14-0)		
	(Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Richmond		
Simplified	Richmond		

NB The Carlton/St Kilda, Port Adelaide/Kangaroos and West Coast/Richmond Line markets went up on Thursday night when the head-to-head markets were \$1.90/\$1.90, \$1.90/\$1.90 and \$1.80/\$1.93 respectively

All head-to-head markets are as at Wednesday noon.

This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

If you're a believer in the Funds' ability to spot value (and what evidence could you possibly have to the contrary) then you'll believe that there's little of it on offer this weekend.

Chi and the Alpha Fund have abstained from wagering completely, the Line Fund has found a couple of bets, the Beta Fund has found just one, and even the Fund that's determined to find value where none exists, the Heritage Fund, has identified just one game on which to sprinkle its dwindling cash reserves.

Here's the detail:

1. Line Fund: Adelaide, 7.79% @ \$1.90 +18½ points against Collingwood

This is the Line Fund's first wager this season on the Crows and only its second against the Pies, the previous being a successful flutter on Carlton when they took on the Pies in Round 12.

Three goals start is not a lot if the Pies are switched on early, so we'll need the Crows to be in front or thereabouts for most of the game if this wager is to be profitable.

2. Heritage Fund: Essendon, 5.79% @ \$2.35 against the Brisbane Lions

This year the Heritage Fund and Essendon have made oil and water seem like a serving suggestion. None of the five wagers has finished in black ink leaving the Dons responsible for knocking 40c off the Heritage Fund share price.

On the other hand, the Heritage Fund's only other wager against the Lions this year resulted in smiles all around when Melbourne pipped them by a solitary in the previous round.

3. Beta Fund: Port Adelaide, 4.68% @ \$1.90 against the Roos

A home team priced at \$1.90 is something that should have appealed to the Beta Fund all season and, indeed, it has done so in the case of Port Adelaide this week. This is the Beta Fund's second wager for the season on Port, the previous coming in Round 4 when Port took on the Lions and lost by 20 points.

On a more positive note, the Beta Fund is 1 for 1 when wagering against the Roos.

4. Line Fund: Sydney, 7.79% @ \$1.90 +17½ points against Hawthorn

The Line Fund has not previously found reason to wager on the Swans and has only twice ventured to wager against the Hawks, winning one and losing the other.

The bookies have, perhaps understandably, reacted badly to Sydney's insipid performance against the Pies last week and so are offering what appears to be a generous 17½ points start to the Swans.

So, our bets are spread around this week, none of them at a price in excess of \$2.35, which makes it far more likely than usual that Investors will enjoy a profitable weekend as the table below – based on 100,000 simulations of the weekend's matchups – suggests.

MIN #001					MIN #002					MIN #005				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst
RONF	(0.60%)	7.90%	11.26%	(11.35%)	RONF	(0.38%)	6.66%	7.82%	(5.79%)	RONF	(1.58%)	26.10%	29.34%	(31.73%)
ROI	(5.32%)	69.63%			ROI	(6.64%)	114.99%			ROI	(4.97%)	82.27%		
Prob. of Profit:	50%				Prob. of Profit:	40%				Prob. of Profit:	50%			
MIN #015					MIN ALL OTHERS					The Mean RONF represents the expected increase in the value of the portfolio of the relevant Investor. The Mean ROI represents the expected return on the week's wagers.				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst					
RONF	(0.17%)	2.22%	2.11%	(2.34%)	RONF	(0.81%)	11.36%	14.76%	(15.53%)					
ROI	(7.11%)	94.98%			ROI	(5.20%)	73.19%							
Prob. of Profit:	49%				Prob. of Profit:	50%								

Tips

Here are the underdog tips of the leading tipsters (with the current tipping score shown in brackets after the tipster name):

Tipster (Record)	Underdog Tips
BKB (83)	None (by definition)
Chi (80)	None
Quila (79)	Sydney
Shadow (79)	Adelaide and Essendon
CTL (79)	None
MARS(77)	Port Adelaide
MM7 (77)	Carlton and Sydney
SMM23 (77)	Sydney and West Coast
MM8 (76)	Carlton and Sydney
SMM11 (76)	None
SMM13 (76)	None
SMM19 (76)	Sydney

Carlton v St Kilda (St Kilda 54-11)

Few of the highly-credentialled tipsters have gone with the Blues for this game, which is perhaps surprising given the narrowness of the Saints' favouritism. Indeed, as I write this the head-to-head Sportsbet market stands at St Kilda \$1.90/Carlton \$1.90.

Collingwood v Adelaide (Collingwood 51-14)

Adelaide can count amongst its supporters this week just Shadow and a motley bunch of middle to poorly-performing MM models. Chi and Quila have the Pies as only 1½ to 2-goal favourites; the bookies have it nearer to a 3 goal margin.

Geelong v Fremantle (Geelong 65-0)

Geelong, once again, are the unanimous favourites. The bookies have them as massive 7½ goal winners while Chi and Quila are tipping a much narrower victory for the Cats.

Essendon v Brisbane Lions (Brisbane Lions 58-7)

The only tipsters opting for the Dons are Shadow, the two Über Models (both of which have disappointed so far this season) and the 4 MM models with shortest memories. Brisbane by about 2 goals seems to be the consensus.

Port Adelaide v Kangaroos (Kangaroos 63-2)

MARS' affection for Port Adelaide is well-documented and is once again on display this week as MARS finds itself one of only two tipsters predicting a Port victory. The concurring tipster is MM40, whose record this year has it 19 correct tips off the pace and only 1 tip ahead of MAFL's poorest tipsters.

Hawthorn v Sydney (Hawthorn 54-11)

Sydney has some talented friends in Quila, MM7, MM8, SMM19 and SMM23, but the majority of tipsters are nonetheless forecasting a Hawks victory. Chi has it as his Game of the Round and gives it to the Hawks by just 2 points. Sportsbet has it as a 3-goal Hawks victory.

Western Bulldogs v Melbourne (Western Bulldogs 65-0)

The Bulldogs are the MAFL tipsters' unanimous choice, with the bookies and Quila tipping large margins.

West Coast v Richmond (Richmond 41-24)

This is another game that the bookmakers have had trouble pricing. Though Richmond were favourites on Wednesday afternoon, the latest market has the Eagles as slight favourites.

The weight of MAFL tipster support is with the Tigers, however, with only SMM23 as what could be reasonably dubbed a credible supporter.

So, this week's most-favoured amongst MAFL Tipsters teams are the eight (Wednesday) favourites:

- St Kilda (Favourite)
- Collingwood (Favourite)
- Geelong (Favourite)
- Brisbane Lions (Favourite)
- Kangaroos (Favourite)
- Hawthorn (Favourite)
- Western Bulldogs (Favourite)
- Richmond (Favourite)

Team Rating System

MARS is tipping seven favourites this weekend, opting for Port Adelaide as its sole underdog tip.

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

- St Kilda by 4 points or more
- Pies by 6 points or more
- Geelong by 26 points or more
- Lions by 10 points or more
- Port by 3 points or more
- Hawthorn by 1 point or more
- Bulldogs by 30 points or more
- Richmond by 1 point or more

Both the Roos and the Saints have excellent chances of knocking Port out of the MARS Top 8 this weekend.

Collingwood might also force its way into the Top 4 if it can record a solid win over the Crows and then hope that the Swans can rebound from last week's performance and topple the Hawks.

Geelong are now about 15 ratings points behind their peak rating of 2007, which was 1,058.3 and occurred at the end of the Grand Final. Should they eclipse that rating, their next target would be the all-time ratings point record of 1,072.8 registered by Essendon at the end of the 2000 season.

Team	Mid R14
Geelong	1,048.2
Sydney	1,024.3
Western Bulldogs	1,023.2
Hawthorn	1,020.2
Collingwood	1,016.6
Adelaide	1,008.8
Brisbane Lions	1,005.1
Port Adelaide	997.2
St Kilda	996.6
Kangaroos	996.1
Fremantle	992.5
Richmond	981.9
Carlton	981.6
West Coast	975.4
Essendon	974.5
Melbourne	957.8

Bookmakers' Prices

Geelong have now breached even money pricing for the Flag, which surely precludes them from appearing in any sentence also harbouring the word 'value'. The Bulldogs inhabit the 2nd line of the Sportsbet market, a position that is otherwise occupied by the Hawks on the Centrebet and Domebet markets. Amongst the remaining teams only Sydney and the Pies appear to be given any realistic chance of adding silverware to the cupboard.

In Final 8 betting we have the Roos, the Saints, the Blues and the Tigers apparently vying for the 8th spot with the Saints considered the team most likely to fill that spot. MARS, of course, reckons it'll be St Kilda, so maybe \$2.15 is worth a look.

Melbourne's grip on the Spoon has tightened a little in the most recent markets; its price has now significantly and perhaps irrevocably dipped below \$2.

Team	Bookmakers' Prices (9th July v 2nd July)								
	Premiership Winner			Final 8		Wooden Spoon		Miss 8	
	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	
Geelong	1.90 S	1.95 S	2.00 S	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	
Western Bulldogs	5.00 -	5.25 L	5.50 -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	
Hawthorn	5.50 L	5.00 -	5.00 -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	
Collingwood	10.00 S	12.00 S	12.00 S	1.05 S	1.04 S	No Price -	No Price -	9.00 L	
Sydney	13.00 L	12.00 L	12.00 L	1.03 L	1.02 L	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	
Brisbane Lions	26.00 -	26.00 L	26.00 L	1.10 -	1.08 L	No Price -	No Price -	5.00 -	
Adelaide	41.00 L	36.00 L	36.00 L	1.22 L	1.25 L	No Price -	No Price -	3.75 S	
St Kilda	51.00 -	41.00 L	46.00 -	2.15 S	2.10 -	No Price -	No Price -	1.45 -	
Carlton	61.00 L	67.00 L	67.00 L	2.25 S	2.50 -	No Price -	No Price -	1.50 -	
Kangaroos	151.00 L	126.00 -	126.00 S	2.50 -	2.50 -	No Price -	No Price -	1.35 S	
Essendon	151.00 -	201.00 L	201.00 -	4.50 -	5.00 -	No Price -	No Price -	1.08 L	
Richmond	201.00 L	151.00 -	181.00 S	3.25 L	3.25 -	No Price -	No Price -	1.18 S	
Port Adelaide	1001.00 -	501.00 -	1001.00 -	26.00 -	21.00 -	51.00 S	No Price -	No Price -	
Fremantle	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	6.50 S	7.00 -	No Price -	
West Coast	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	2.60 L	2.65 L	No Price -	
Melbourne	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	1.75 -	1.65 -	No Price -	
Over-round	20.3%	19.7%	17.1%	6.6%	6.2%	12.9%	12.6%	5.6%	

There's been some tidying up of loose ends on the GF Quinella market this week, with the removal from the board of any pairing involving Freo, West Coast or Melbourne.

A Cats v Bulldogs GF has moved to outright favoritism at \$2.90, priced narrowly shorter than a Cats v Hawks matchup at \$3.10. Two other pairings involving the Cats are priced under \$10, as is the pairing of the Dogs and the Hawks.

	WB	Haw	Col	Syd	Bri	Ade	StK	Car	Ess	Kan	Ric	PA	Fre	WC	Mel
Geelong	2.9	3.1	5	7	14	23	28	34	85	85	110	550	XX	XX	XX
Western Bulldogs		9	18	21	48	76	95	110	280	280	375	1500	XX	XX	XX
Hawthorn			20	26	53	84	100	125	310	310	415	1500	XX	XX	XX
Collingwood				34	100	160	200	235	590	590	790	1500	XX	XX	XX
Sydney					130	210	260	315	780	780	1000	1500	XX	XX	XX
Brisbane						425	530	640	1500	1500	1500	1500	XX	XX	XX
Adelaide							840	1000	1500	1500	1500	1500	XX	XX	XX
St Kilda								1200	1500	1500	1500	1500	XX	XX	XX
Carlton									1500	1500	1500	1500	XX	XX	XX
Essendon										1500	1500	1500	XX	XX	XX
Kangaroos											1500	1500	XX	XX	XX
Richmond												1500	XX	XX	XX
Port Adelaide													XX	XX	XX
Fremantle														XX	XX
West Coast															XX

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

If there's anything to the trend that I spotted last week (viz the relative success of teams in the week after they've been wagered on by the Heritage Fund) then two or three of St Kilda, Port Adelaide, Melbourne and Adelaide should wind up winners this weekend. Let's hope the two Adelaide teams are amongst them.

I'll finish this week with a real conundrum – a phenomenon that I'm struggling to deem a coincidence or a meaningful pattern. Imagine that you took the total points scored by both teams in a game and looked only at the final digit of the sum. So, for example, if Sydney beat Geelong 112 to 72, the sum is 184 and the last digit of this sum is 4, so all you'd focus on is the 4. Now do this for all the games for seasons 1999 to now.

Can you conceive of any reason why this last digit should be 30% more likely to be a 0, 6 or 9 than it is to be a 1, 2 or 4 (or a 1, 4 or 8)? I can't, but the data for the last 9½ seasons shows that this is the case.

Season	Last Digit of Total Team Scores									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1999	20	24	15	16	17	23	25	13	12	20
2000	17	17	12	17	16	24	24	25	17	16
2001	18	16	16	23	27	13	19	18	13	22
2002	20	15	24	21	19	16	15	16	16	23
2003	30	13	13	11	14	21	26	15	21	21
2004	18	14	12	22	19	22	12	19	25	22
2005	19	21	22	20	18	13	20	18	18	16
2006	18	6	24	19	10	23	24	19	19	23
2007	20	13	17	14	8	19	28	29	12	25
2008	17	6	12	8	9	9	11	10	14	16
Total	197	145	167	171	157	183	204	182	167	204
Rank	3	10	7	6	9	4	1	5	7	1
%	11.1%	8.2%	9.4%	9.6%	8.8%	10.3%	11.5%	10.2%	9.4%	11.5%

Ideas anyone?

'til Sunday,

Tony

10 July 2008