

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

17th July
Round #16 2008

Round 16

COL 54-11 Kangaroos v Collingwood (Docklands, 18th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$2.75	\$1.42
	30% - 36%	64% - 70%
	Kangaroos +15½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	7.71% (29.88%) on Kangaroos	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	7.79% (10.72%) on Kangaroos	
Chi	Collingwood by 15	
Quila	Collingwood by 17	
Shadow	Collingwood	
CTL	Collingwood	
MARS	Collingwood	
MM	Collingwood (34-9) (Dissenters: MM25, 27, 30-36)	
Super MM	Collingwood (12-2) (Dissenters: SMM7, 8)	
Uber MM	Collingwood	
Simplified	Collingwood	

GEE 65-0 Geelong v W Bulldogs (Kardinia Park, 19th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.50	\$2.45
	59% - 67%	33% - 41%
	Geelong -13½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	7.49% (13.89%) on Geelong	
Chi	3.01% (4.19%) on Geelong	
Line	-	
Chi	Geelong by 12	
Quila	Geelong by 11	
Shadow	Geelong	
CTL	Geelong	
MARS	Geelong	
MM	Geelong (43-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Geelong	
Simplified	Geelong	

ESS 42-23 Richmond v Essendon (MCG, 19th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.75	\$2.00
	50% - 57%	43% - 50%
	Richmond -9½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)*	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	7.79% (10.72%) on Essendon	
Chi	Essendon by 3 (Game of the Round)	
Quila	Essendon by 10	
Shadow	Essendon	
CTL	Richmond	
MARS	Richmond	
MM	Essendon (25-18) (Dissenters: MM8-24, 26)	
Super MM	Essendon (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Richmond	
Simplified	Richmond	

BL 60-5 Bris Lions v West Coast (Gabba, 19th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.08	\$7.00
	86% - 93%	7% - 14%
	Bris Lions -39½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Brisbane Lions by 23	
Quila	Brisbane Lions by 24	
Shadow	Brisbane Lions	
CTL	Brisbane Lions	
MARS	Brisbane Lions	
MM	Brisbane Lions (38-5) (Dissenters: MM40-44)	
Super MM	Brisbane Lions (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Brisbane Lions	
Simplified	Brisbane Lions	

HAW 64-1 St Kilda v Hawthorn (Docklands, 19th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$2.90	\$1.38
	28% - 34%	66% - 72%
	St Kilda +15½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	6.92% (26.85%) on St Kilda	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	7.79% (10.72%) on St Kilda	
Chi	Hawthorn by 14	
Quila	Hawthorn by 19	
Shadow	Hawthorn	
CTL	Hawthorn	
MARS	Hawthorn	
MM	Hawthorn (42-1) (Dissenters: MM3)	
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Hawthorn	
Simplified	Hawthorn	

SYD 62-3 Carlton v Sydney (Docklands, 20th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$2.40	\$1.52
	34% - 42%	58% - 66%
	Carlton +11½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	5.54% (21.50%) on Carlton	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Sydney by 15	
Quila	Sydney by 20	
Shadow	Sydney	
CTL	Sydney	
MARS	Sydney	
MM	Sydney (42-1) (Dissenters: MM2)	
Super MM	Sydney (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Carlton	
Simplified	Carlton	

ADE 60-5 Pt Adelaide v Adelaide (Football Park, 20th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.95	\$1.78
	44% - 51%	49% - 56%
	Pt Adelaide +6½ pts (\$1.82/\$1.98)	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Adelaide by 7	
Quila	Adelaide by 15	
Shadow	Adelaide	
CTL	Adelaide	
MARS	Adelaide	
MM	Adelaide (40-3) (Dissenters: MM2-4)	
Super MM	Adelaide (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Port Adelaide	
Simplified	Port Adelaide	

FRE 47-18 Fremantle v Melbourne (Subiaco, 20th July 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.42	\$2.75
	64% - 70%	30% - 36%
	Fremantle -15½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)	
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	4.63% (8.59%) on Fremantle	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Fremantle by 20	
Quila	Fremantle by 21	
Shadow	Fremantle	
CTL	Fremantle	
MARS	Fremantle	
MM	Fremantle (36-7) (Dissenters: MM2, 3, 9-12, 16)	
Super MM	Melbourne (9-5) (Dissenters: SMM4, 19, 21, 23, 33)	
Uber MM	Melbourne	
Simplified	Melbourne	

NB The Richmond v Essendon Line market was posted late Thursday when the head-to-head market had moved to \$1.60 / \$2.25

This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

This week's bets cover 6 of the 8 games and all Funds excepting Alpha have found something to their liking. Here's the detail:

1. *Heritage Fund: Kangaroos, 7.71% @ \$2.75 against Collingwood*
Line Fund: Kangaroos, 7.79% @ \$1.90 +15½ points against Collingwood

The Heritage Fund has bet on the Roos twice before this season, both times without success. It's also bet against the Pies 3 times for 1 win and 2 losses, but an overall profitable outcome. The Line Fund has had one, unsuccessful wager on the Roos, and two wagers against the Pies for 1 win and 1 loss.

With the Roos needing a win here to stay in touch with the top 8 and Collingwood needing a win to have a shot at the top 4, this should be a sensational Friday night fixture.

2. *Beta Fund: Geelong, 7.49% @ \$1.50 against the Western Bulldogs*
Chi Fund: Geelong, 3.01% @ \$1.50 against the Western Bulldogs

You'd reckon a Fund or two might've latched on a bit earlier to the fact that the Cats have won a game or two this season and so might have been worth a flutter. Well, finally, the Beta and Chi Funds have dipped the proverbial toe in the water, albeit in Round 16 and albeit as the Cats take on the in-form and 2nd placed Bulldogs.

As well as being both Funds' first wagers on the Cats it's also their first wagers against the Dogs.

3. *Line Fund: Essendon, 7.79% @ \$1.90 +9½ points against Richmond*

The Line market for this game went up late on Thursday and immediately attracted the attention of the Line Fund. It's the Line Fund's second wager for the year on the Dons (it lost the previous wager) and its first for the year against the Tigers.

To be frank, starts less than about 12½ points make me nervous, especially if the team receiving the start falls behind late in the game, as a loss by 14 points doesn't feel much different to a loss by 8.

4. *Heritage Fund: St Kilda, 6.92% @ \$2.90 against Hawthorn*
Line Fund: St Kilda, 7.79% @ \$1.90 +15½ points against Hawthorn

Here again we have the Heritage Fund making the head-to-head wager and the Line Fund stepping up with the insurance line bet.

The Heritage Fund is 1 and 2 for the season when wagering on the Saints (for a net profit) and 0 and 3 wagering against the Hawks. The Line Fund is also 1 and 2 when wagering on the Saints, and 1 and 2 when wagering against the Hawks.

5. *Heritage Fund: Carlton, 5.54% @ \$2.40 against Sydney*

The Heritage Fund has gone it alone on this game, plumping for what would be a devastating loss for the Swans and a final 8 chances boosting win for the Blues.

This season the Heritage Fund is 1 and 2 on Blues wagers (once more for a net profit) and 0 and 1 when wagering against the Swans.

6. *Beta Fund: Fremantle, 4.63% @ \$1.42 against Melbourne*

How odd it will feel strutting if the Dees concede a 5 or 6 goal start in the 1st quarter on Sunday.

It's the Beta Fund's first bet on the Dockers and also its first bet against the Dees. (In fact it's the first wager against the Dees by any Fund this season.)

Based on 100,000 simulations of the weekend's matchups all Investors have reasonable prospects for a profitable weekend, which is a bit surprising for those whose fortune depends on all 9 wagers. I guess the fact that none of the bets is at a price greater than \$2.75 helps.

MIN #001					MIN #002					MIN #005				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst
RONF	(0.77%)	6.96%	16.88%	(12.52%)	RONF	(1.27%)	15.22%	34.40%	(20.17%)	RONF	(0.87%)	7.93%	18.21%	(15.28%)
ROI	(6.14%)	55.57%			ROI	(6.31%)	75.48%			ROI	(5.67%)	51.91%		
Prob. of Profit:	44%				Prob. of Profit:	42%				Prob. of Profit:	48%			

MIN #015					MIN ALL OTHERS				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst
RONF	(0.40%)	3.14%	2.84%	(6.06%)	RONF	(0.75%)	6.01%	14.84%	(12.43%)
ROI	(6.61%)	51.81%			ROI	(6.03%)	48.33%		
Prob. of Profit:	41%				Prob. of Profit:	46%			

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.

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 (90)	None (by definition)
Chi (87)	Essendon
CTL (86)	None
Shadow (86)	Essendon
Quila (85)	Essendon
MARS(83)	None
SMM11 (83)	Melbourne
SMM13 (83)	Melbourne
SMM23 (83)	None
MM5 (82)	Essendon
MM7 (82)	Essendon
SMM3 (82)	Melbourne
SMM5 (82)	Melbourne
SMM6 (82)	Melbourne
SMM19 (82)	None

Kangaroos v Collingwood (Collingwood 54-11)

There's no support for the Roos amongst the top tipsters. Just a handful of medium to long-term MM models and a couple of SMM models have got behind them.

The bookies, Chi and Quila are all forecasting about a 2½-goal Pies victory.

Geelong v Western Bulldogs (Geelong 65-0)

So dominant have the Cats been that all 65 tipsters have lined up behind them this weekend. Once again the bookies, Chi and Quila are in broad agreement about the margin: roughly 2 goals.

Richmond v Essendon (Essendon 42-23)

It's the underdog Dons that have majority tipster support in this game, including the support of the 3 dogs as well as equal 10th placed MM5 and MM7.

Chi's not especially confident about the result, however, so he's tipping just a 3-point margin, making this clash his Game of the Round.

Brisbane Lions v West Coast (Brisbane Lions 60-5)

Only the longest-remembered MM models have opted for the Eagles this weekend.

Chi and Quila are tipping about a 4-goal margin. The bookies are tipping a 6½-goal mauling by the Lions.

St Kilda v Hawthorn (Hawthorn 64-1)

MM3 is the tipping voice in the wilderness for this game. Chi, Quila and the bookies all see it as a 2½-3 goal Hawks victory.

Carlton v Sydney (Sydney 62-3)

Carlton has just MM2 and the two Über Models rooting for it in this game (oh, and all the Heritage Fund Investors too). Sydney by 2-3 goals seems to be the consensus amongst those hazarding a guess at the margin of victory.

Port Adelaide v Adelaide (Adelaide 60-5)

In this game too it's the underdog garnering support from MM2 and the two Über Models, though here they're joined by MM3 and MM4.

This game looks likely to be a close run thing, as you'd expect for a Crows-Port local derby. I'm glad we've no financial interest in it.

Fremantle v Melbourne (Fremantle 47-18)

Melbourne can count amongst its supporters this week SMM3, 5, 6, 11 and 13, all of which are tipsters in the top 10. Chi, Quila and the bookies, however, see it as a 2½-3½ goal Freo triumph.

Frankly – aside from our smallish Beta wager – when 14th plays 16th who really cares?

So, this week's most-favoured amongst MAFL Tipsters teams are:

- Collingwood (Favourite)
- Geelong (Favourite)
- Essendon (Underdog)
- Brisbane Lions (Favourite)
- Hawthorn (Favourite)
- Sydney (Favourite)
- Adelaide (Favourite)
- Fremantle (Favourite)

Team Rating System

MARS is tipping all eight favourites this weekend.

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

- Pies by 8 points or more
- Geelong by 14 points or more
- Richmond by 7 points or more
- Lions by 16 points or more
- Hawthorn by 8 points or more
- Sydney by 15 points or more
- Adelaide by 2 points or more
- Fremantle by 15 points or more

The Lions, Saints, Port and the Roos are all near enough to have an effect on the MARS Top 8 this weekend, though you'd fancy that the Lions and Port have the best chances of materially improving their ratings.

A solid Collingwood performance and a slip by the Swans could see the Pies forcing their way into the Top 4 this weekend.

Team	End R15
Geelong	1,051.9
Western Bulldogs	1,023.3
Hawthorn	1,023.0
Sydney	1,021.5
Collingwood	1,019.0
Adelaide	1,006.4
Brisbane Lions	1,000.8
St Kilda	999.2
Port Adelaide	996.8
Kangaroos	996.6
Fremantle	988.7
Richmond	988.3
Carlton	979.0
Essendon	978.9
West Coast	969.0
Melbourne	957.7

Bookmakers' Prices

Two of the bookies we're tracking thought enough of the Cats demolition of Freo to shorten their price whilst the third clearly thought they weren't impressive enough and so, instead, lengthened their price. Regardless, the Cats still find themselves as overwhelming Flag favourites on all markets.

In Final 8 betting the bookies have now destroyed the value that we spotted in the Saints at \$2.15 last weekend by moving their price into \$1.33, meaning that we now have 8 clear favourites for the top 8 spots.

As well, the Eagles are providing some late-season Spoon interest as they vie with the Dees to record each weekend's Most Insipid Performance. TAB Sportsbet now have the Eagles as Spoon favourites; with Centrebet, the Dees retain Spoon favouritism, but the gap to the Eagles has narrowed.

Team	Bookmakers' Prices (16th July v 9th July)								
	Premiership Winner			Final 8		Wooden Spoon		Miss 8	
	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	
Geelong	1.95 L	1.90 S	1.95 S	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	
Western Bulldogs	5.00 -	5.50 L	5.50 -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	
Hawthorn	5.50 -	5.00 -	5.25 L	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	
Collingwood	8.50 S	9.00 S	9.00 S	1.03 S	1.01 S	No Price -	No Price -	14.00 L	
Sydney	15.00 L	16.00 L	16.00 L	1.03 -	1.03 L	No Price -	No Price -	13.00 S	
St Kilda	31.00 S	26.00 S	34.00 S	1.33 S	1.28 S	No Price -	No Price -	2.75 L	
Brisbane Lions	34.00 L	41.00 L	41.00 L	1.28 L	1.25 L	No Price -	No Price -	2.90 S	
Adelaide	51.00 L	51.00 L	55.00 L	1.60 L	1.55 L	No Price -	No Price -	2.15 S	
Kangaroos	81.00 S	126.00 -	91.00 S	2.25 S	2.35 S	No Price -	No Price -	1.50 L	
Richmond	81.00 S	101.00 S	126.00 S	2.50 S	2.35 S	No Price -	No Price -	1.28 L	
Essendon	81.00 S	126.00 S	181.00 S	3.75 S	3.50 S	No Price -	No Price -	1.15 L	
Carlton	101.00 L	201.00 L	141.00 L	4.00 L	4.00 L	No Price -	No Price -	1.16 S	
Port Adelaide	2001.00 L	No Price L	No Price L	101.00 L	No Price L	51.00 -	No Price -	No Price -	
Fremantle	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	6.50 -	5.75 S	No Price -	
West Coast	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	1.95 S	2.15 S	No Price -	
Melbourne	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	2.25 L	2.10 L	No Price -	
Over-round	20.8%	19.5%	16.2%	5.9%	7.2%	13.1%	11.5%	6.3%	

Only 77 pairing remain priced in the GF Quinella market. Whilst the Cats v Bulldogs and Cats v Hawks matchups remain shortest-priced, they've both blown by 10c this week to be at \$3 at \$3.20 respectively.

Most noticeable has been the shortening of the odds for any sensible GF involving the Saints.

	WB	Haw	Col	Syd	StK	Bri	Ade	Ess	Kan	Ric	Car	PA	Fre	WC	Mel
Geelong	3	3.2	5	9	18	20	30	48	48	48	60	1190	xx	xx	xx
Western Bulldogs		9.5	15	28	58	64	96	155	155	155	190	1500	xx	xx	xx
Hawthorn			17	31	65	71	110	170	170	170	215	1500	xx	xx	xx
Collingwood				50	105	115	170	275	275	275	340	1500	xx	xx	xx
Sydney					185	205	310	490	490	490	615	1500	xx	xx	xx
St Kilda						430	645	1030	1030	1030	1285	1500	xx	xx	xx
Brisbane							710	1130	1130	1130	1410	1500	xx	xx	xx
Adelaide								1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	xx	xx	xx
Essendon									1500	1500	1500	1500	xx	xx	xx
Kangaroos										1500	1500	1500	xx	xx	xx
Richmond											1500	1500	xx	xx	xx
Carlton												1500	xx	xx	xx
Port Adelaide													xx	xx	xx
Fremantle														xx	xx
West Coast															xx

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I was heartened this week to read a journal article demonstrating that a very prominent US tipster, Bob Sagarin, has forecast line betting outcomes at no better than chance over an 8 year period, despite maintaining an avid and sizeable following amongst USA Today readers and despite consistently moving gambling markets on the strength of his prognostications.

Call it schadenfreude if you like but I find it helps to get the occasional reminder of just how hard it is to predict sports results and churn out a profit from sports wagering.

'til Sunday,

Tony

17 July 2008