

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

28th August
Round #22 2008

Round 22

COL 63-2		Fremantle v Collingwood (Subiaco, 29th August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$2.60	\$1.45	
	31% - 38%	62% - 69%	
Fremantle +15½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	5.88% (8.45%) on Fremantle		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Collingwood by 7 (Game of the Round)		
Quila	Fremantle by 1		
Shadow	Collingwood		
CTL	Collingwood		
MARS	Collingwood		
MM	Collingwood (42-1) (Dissenters: MM6)		
Super MM	Collingwood (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Collingwood		
Simplified	Collingwood		

KAN 64-1		Kangaroos v Pt Adelaide (MCG, 30th August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.18	\$4.50	
	78% - 85%	15% - 22%	
Kangaroos -29½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	13.68% (19.65%) on Port Adelaide		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Kangaroos by 20		
Quila	Kangaroos by 21		
Shadow	Kangaroos		
CTL	Kangaroos		
MARS	Kangaroos		
MM	Kangaroos (42-1) (Dissenters: MM2)		
Super MM	Kangaroos (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Kangaroos		
Simplified	Kangaroos		

GEE 65-0		Geelong v West Coast (Kardinia Park, 30th August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.01	\$12.00	
	92% - 99%	1% - 8%	
Geelong -72½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Geelong by 32		
Quila	Geelong by 29		
Shadow	Geelong		
CTL	Geelong		
MARS	Geelong		
MM	Geelong (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Geelong		
Simplified	Geelong		

WB 52-13		Adelaide v W Bulldogs (Football Park, 30th August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.85	\$1.90	
	47% - 54%	46% - 53%	
Adelaide -6½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Adelaide by 17		
Quila	Adelaide by 21		
Shadow	Western Bulldogs		
CTL	Western Bulldogs		
MARS	Adelaide		
MM	Western Bulldogs (34-9) (Dissenters: MM3-7, 26-28, 42)		
Super MM	Western Bulldogs (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Western Bulldogs		
Simplified	Western Bulldogs		

HAW 65-0		Carlton v Hawthorn (Docklands, 30th August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$3.00	\$1.36	
	26% - 33%	67% - 74%	
Carlton +18½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	10.17% (14.60%) on Carlton		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Hawthorn by 17		
Quila	Hawthorn by 16		
Shadow	Hawthorn		
CTL	Hawthorn		
MARS	Hawthorn		
MM	Hawthorn (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Hawthorn		
Simplified	Hawthorn		

SYD 57-8		Sydney v Bris Lions (SCG, 30th August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.42	\$2.75	
	64% - 70%	30% - 36%	
Sydney -15½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Sydney by 10		
Quila	Sydney by 9		
Shadow	Sydney		
CTL	Sydney		
MARS	Sydney		
MM	Sydney (35-8) (Dissenters: MM2-9)		
Super MM	Sydney (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Sydney		
Simplified	Sydney		

RIC 65-0		Melbourne v Richmond (MCG, 31st August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$4.50	\$1.18	
	15% - 22%	78% - 85%	
Melbourne +28½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	8.69% (12.49%) on Melbourne		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Richmond by 9		
Quila	Richmond by 1		
Shadow	Richmond		
CTL	Richmond		
MARS	Richmond		
MM	Richmond (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Richmond (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Richmond		
Simplified	Richmond		

STK 65-0		Essendon v St Kilda (Docklands, 31st August 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$5.75	\$1.12	
	11% - 17%	83% - 89%	
Essendon +36½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	8.86% (12.73%) on Essendon		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	St Kilda by 10		
Quila	St Kilda by 1		
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		

* NB The Line Mkt for the Mel/Ade game went up on Thursday night when the head-to-head market was at \$1.75/\$2.00

This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

The Heritage Fund has contrived a most fitting end to its wagering for the Home and Away part of the season, outlaying almost 50% of Notional Initial Funds, an amount second only to what it outlaid in Round 11. (Not that we remember that round with any fondness.)

Regrettably, no other Fund has ventured a wager. Chi was keen on the Crows early on in the week when they were at \$1.95, but no longer saw value in them once they moved to \$1.85. He's to be forgiven anyway for taking a little less interest in this week's proceedings as he underwent surgery on Wednesday to remove a troublesome tooth, clean the remaining choppers (of which there are disturbingly few) and have a blocked set of lachrymal ducts looked at. I'm pleased to report that the Official MAFL Mascot is recovering well and setting new records for hours of sleep registered in a single day.

Here's the detail of the week's wagers:

1. *Heritage Fund: Fremantle 5.88% @ \$2.60 against Collingwood*

The Heritage Fund is 0 and 3 when wagering on Freo in 2008, and 3 and 4 – with a healthy profit –when wagering against the Pies.

In the grand scheme of the weekend, the outcome of this game will be of relatively little import.

2. *Heritage Fund: Port Adelaide, 13.68% @ \$4.50 against the Kangaroos*

Port has disappointed many this year, not least of all Heritage Fund Investors who've seen the Fund go 0 and 3 on the Power. Betting against the Roos has been no more pleasurable, with a 1 and 5 record serving to knock about 16c off the Heritage Fund price.

One important factor, however, is that a Roos victory will guarantee them a first up clash against the Cats at Kardinia in week 1 of the finals. If that's not incentive enough to fail valiantly ...

3. *Heritage Fund: Carlton, 10.17% @ \$3.00 against Hawthorn*

Only 1 of 6 bets on the Blues have been successful for the Heritage Fund this season, but this has been good enough for it to record a small profit on them across the season. Betting against the Hawks has produced a similar outcome: profitability, despite a 2 and 6 performance.

4. *Heritage Fund: Melbourne, 8.69% @ \$4.50 against Richmond*

This week's Melbourne bet makes it the even dozen for the season; to date, the record's 3 and 8 for about a 16½c loss.

Betting against Richmond has yielded no joy at all for the Heritage Fund, with each of the 3 earlier wagers serving only to make TAB Sportsbet just a smidgeon more profitable.

5. *Heritage Fund: Essendon, 8.86% @ \$5.75 against St Kilda*

The Dons have enjoyed the Heritage Fund's affections 9 times previously this season but have proved worthy of it on only 2 of those occasions, leading to a net loss of about 13c.

Wagering against St Kilda, however, has been very profitable. Indeed, the Saints have provided the best record of any team when wagered against by the Heritage Fund. Four wagers have produced 3 wins and 1 loss and a net gain of 52½c.

If the Heritage Fund is to enter the finals within cooe of profitability, two out of the Port, Dees and Dons need to be victorious.

Here's the Investors' Guide to Profit and Loss for this week.

Recommended Portfolio

Worst (14.18%)		Best 45.04%		Expect (0.92%)			
Teams		Favourite Wins				Underdog Wins	
Favourite	Underdog	Covers Spread		Doesn't Cover		Prob	Return
		Prob	Return	Prob	Return	Prob	Return
Collingwood	Fremantle	50%	(1.76%)	14%	(1.76%)	36%	2.82%
Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	50%	(4.10%)	29%	(4.10%)	21%	14.36%
Geelong	West Coast	50%	0.00%	42%	0.00%	8%	0.00%
Adelaide	Western Bulldogs	50%	0.00%	1%	0.00%	49%	0.00%
Hawthorn	Carlton	50%	(3.05%)	19%	(3.05%)	31%	6.10%
Sydney	Brisbane Lions	50%	0.00%	16%	0.00%	34%	0.00%
Richmond	Melbourne	50%	(2.61%)	29%	(2.61%)	21%	9.12%
St Kilda	Essendon	50%	(2.66%)	34%	(2.66%)	16%	12.63%

MIN #001

Worst (18.91%)		Best 60.05%		Expect (1.23%)			
Teams		Favourite Wins				Underdog Wins	
Favourite	Underdog	Covers Spread		Doesn't Cover		Prob	Return
		Prob	Return	Prob	Return	Prob	Return
Collingwood	Fremantle	50%	(2.35%)	14%	(2.35%)	36%	3.76%
Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	50%	(5.47%)	29%	(5.47%)	21%	19.15%
Geelong	West Coast	50%	0.00%	42%	0.00%	8%	0.00%
Adelaide	Western Bulldogs	50%	0.00%	1%	0.00%	49%	0.00%
Hawthorn	Carlton	50%	(4.07%)	19%	(4.07%)	31%	8.14%
Sydney	Brisbane Lions	50%	0.00%	16%	0.00%	34%	0.00%
Richmond	Melbourne	50%	(3.48%)	29%	(3.48%)	21%	12.17%
St Kilda	Essendon	50%	(3.54%)	34%	(3.54%)	16%	16.83%

MIN #002

Worst (47.28%)		Best 150.13%		Expect (3.07%)			
Teams		Favourite Wins				Underdog Wins	
Favourite	Underdog	Covers Spread		Doesn't Cover		Prob	Return
		Prob	Return	Prob	Return	Prob	Return
Collingwood	Fremantle	50%	(5.88%)	14%	(5.88%)	36%	9.41%
Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	50%	(13.68%)	29%	(13.68%)	21%	47.88%
Geelong	West Coast	50%	0.00%	42%	0.00%	8%	0.00%
Adelaide	Western Bulldogs	50%	0.00%	1%	0.00%	49%	0.00%
Hawthorn	Carlton	50%	(10.17%)	19%	(10.17%)	31%	20.34%
Sydney	Brisbane Lions	50%	0.00%	16%	0.00%	34%	0.00%
Richmond	Melbourne	50%	(8.69%)	29%	(8.69%)	21%	30.42%
St Kilda	Essendon	50%	(8.86%)	34%	(8.86%)	16%	42.09%

MIN #005

Worst (14.18%)		Best 45.04%		Expect (0.92%)			
Teams		Favourite Wins				Underdog Wins	
Favourite	Underdog	Covers Spread		Doesn't Cover		Prob	Return
		Prob	Return	Prob	Return	Prob	Return
Collingwood	Fremantle	50%	(1.76%)	14%	(1.76%)	36%	2.82%
Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	50%	(4.10%)	29%	(4.10%)	21%	14.36%
Geelong	West Coast	50%	0.00%	42%	0.00%	8%	0.00%
Adelaide	Western Bulldogs	50%	0.00%	1%	0.00%	49%	0.00%
Hawthorn	Carlton	50%	(3.05%)	19%	(3.05%)	31%	6.10%
Sydney	Brisbane Lions	50%	0.00%	16%	0.00%	34%	0.00%
Richmond	Melbourne	50%	(2.61%)	29%	(2.61%)	21%	9.12%
St Kilda	Essendon	50%	(2.66%)	34%	(2.66%)	16%	12.63%

MIN #015

Worst 0.00%		Best 0.00%		Expect 0.00%			
Teams		Favourite Wins				Underdog Wins	
Favourite	Underdog	Covers Spread		Doesn't Cover		Prob	Return
		Prob	Return	Prob	Return	Prob	Return
Collingwood	Fremantle	50%	0.00%	14%	0.00%	36%	0.00%
Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	50%	0.00%	29%	0.00%	21%	0.00%
Geelong	West Coast	50%	0.00%	42%	0.00%	8%	0.00%
Adelaide	Western Bulldogs	50%	0.00%	1%	0.00%	49%	0.00%
Hawthorn	Carlton	50%	0.00%	19%	0.00%	31%	0.00%
Sydney	Brisbane Lions	50%	0.00%	16%	0.00%	34%	0.00%
Richmond	Melbourne	50%	0.00%	29%	0.00%	21%	0.00%
St Kilda	Essendon	50%	0.00%	34%	0.00%	16%	0.00%

For all Investors except MIN#015, for whom there is no action this weekend, a Port victory promises the largest upside, followed closely thereafter by a Dons, Dees and then a Blues victory.

Of far less consequence is a Freo win.

Nonetheless, should Freo and Port both win, Investors with the Recommended Portfolio will be assured of at least about a 9c gain for the weekend.

Most likely though it'll be the results of the last three wagers of the round that determine just how good a round it is.

By the way, all Funds will, as they have in seasons past, continue to trade throughout the Finals, so Investors will still have a chance to recoup losses throughout the month of September.

Historically, however, the Funds have been relatively quiet over the course of the Finals. Last year, for example, the Heritage Fund made only 4 bets in September, Alpha made just 2 as did the Line Fund, and the Beta Fund made just a single wager.

What's perhaps different about this year is the continued dominance of the Cats and the likelihood of some generous prices on the teams facing them.

(If you can't bear the thought of betting against the Cats in the finals, be reminded that you can withdraw your money on any Monday.)

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 (121)	None (by definition)
CTL (116)	Western Bulldogs
Shadow (115)	Western Bulldogs
Chi (115)	None
SUM (114)	Western Bulldogs
SMM11 (113)	Western Bulldogs
SMM13 (113)	Western Bulldogs
SMM33 (113)	Western Bulldogs
SMM3 (112)	Western Bulldogs
SMM5 (112)	Western Bulldogs
SMM6 (112)	Western Bulldogs
SMM23 (112)	Western Bulldogs
Quila (112)	Fremantle

Fremantle v Collingwood (Collingwood 63-2)

Only Quila and MM6 fancy Freo, though neither the bookies nor Chi are expecting a blowout. In fact, so close does Chi expect this game to be that he's made it his Game of the Round.

Kangaroos v Port Adelaide (Kangaroos 64-1)

Just MM2 – MAFL's goldfish-memored tipster – can find reason enough to tip against the Roos. Chi and Quila have it as about a 3½ goal Roo victory. The bookies have it nearer to 5 goals.

Geelong v West Coast (Geelong 65-0)

The bookies are offering 12 goals start for the Eagles, the second-highest offered start of the season, behind only the 12½ goals offered when the Dees met the Cats back in April. In that game the start proved far too generous, the Dees eventually losing only by 40.

Even the ever-conservative Chi is tipping a 5-goal margin.

Adelaide v Western Bulldogs (Western Bulldogs 52-13)

Just about everyone is tipping the underdog Dogs, including most of MAFL's best-performed tipsters (though, oddly enough, only one of the Dogs).

Carlton v Hawthorn (Hawthorn 65-0)

In the context of the finals this game has little to offer unless the Crows beat the Dogs in which case the game will determine whether the Hawks finish 2nd or 3rd.

Sydney v Brisbane (Sydney 57-8)

The 8 Brisbane tipsters are MM2 through MM9, none of which are in the MAFL Top 10.

Sydney, should they win, seem fairly safe not to wind up 4th on the ladder, so I can see no reason for the upset result here.

Melbourne v Richmond (Richmond 65-0)

By my accounting, if Sydney go down to the Lions by, say, 220-50 then Richmond would be a chance to sneak into the finals were they to beat Melbourne by, say, 192-50. So, there's something for Tigers fans to hope for after all.

Essendon v St Kilda (St Kilda 65-0)

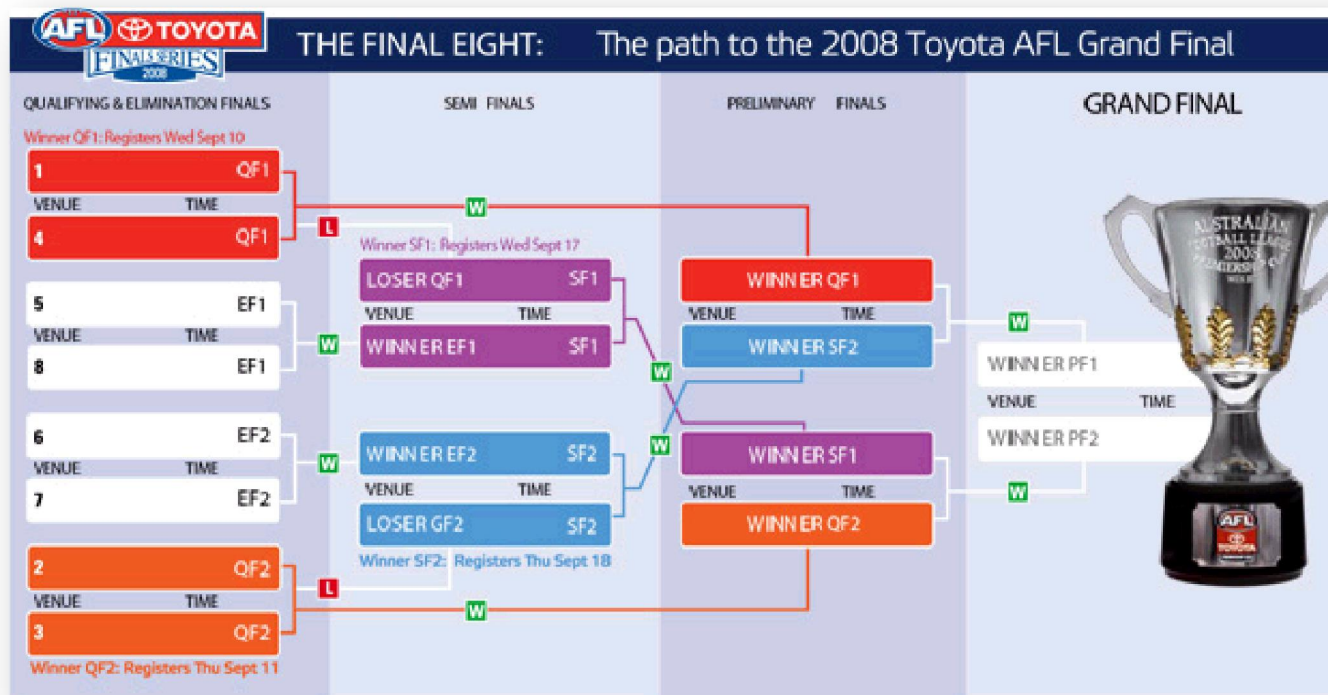
The Saints are 6-goal favourites with the bookies though Chi and, especially, Quila both rate the Dons as some chance.

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

- Collingwood (Favourite)
- Kangaroos (Favourite)
- Geelong (Favourite)
- Western Bulldogs (Underdog)
- Hawthorn (Favourite)
- Sydney (Favourite)
- Richmond (Favourite)
- St Kilda (Favourite)

The AFL Finals System

The following image from www.afl.com.au shows how the AFL Finals work.



In the 1st week of the Finals, the Preliminary Finalists are determined, these being the respective winners of the 1st v 4th and the 2nd v 3rd clashes.

We already know that the Hawks and the Dogs will be playing in the 2nd v 3rd game. We also know that the Cats will form one half of the 1st v 4th pairing, but we don't know who'll form the other half.

Let's have a look at the possibilities. As the table at right shows, any of the teams currently in positions 4th through 8th could, mathematically, wind up in 4th.

For Sydney to do this, however, the Roos, Pies, Crows and Saints would all need to lose, which seems a fairly farfetched proposition.

Assuming the Roos lose then it's very likely that percentages will determine 4th spot, so let's spend a minute having a look at how teams' percentages might be affected by results.

Team	Pts	%	PF	PA
Geelong	80	158.1	2,508	1,586
Hawthorn	64	129.3	2,275	1,759
Western Bulldogs	62	119.8	2,439	2,036
Kangaroos	50	100.5	2,049	2,039
Collingwood	48	112.9	2,211	1,958
Adelaide	48	109.6	1,941	1,771
St Kilda	48	105.0	1,979	1,884
Sydney	46	109.4	1,981	1,810

Firstly, here's a handy formula that can be used to update a team's percentage:

$$\text{Change in Percentage} = \left[\left(\frac{\text{Points Scored this Week}}{\text{Points Conceded this Week}} - \text{Percentage Prior to this Week} \right) \times \frac{\text{Points Conceded this Week}}{\text{Points Conceded this Week as a Percentage of Points Conceded All Season including this Week}} \right]$$

To make this clearer, let's work through an example for Adelaide. Say they win by 130 to 100. Then, the change in their percentage would be $\left(\left(\frac{130}{100} - 1.096 \right) \times \frac{100}{1,771 + 100} \right) = 0.011$. Adelaide's new percentage would therefore be $1.096 + 0.011 = 1.107$ (or 110.7 as it is typically reported). As this example illustrates, it's hard to shift percentages by much this far into the season.

If we look a little closer at the formula above we can put some realistic boundaries on the biggest shift we're likely to see.

Firstly, it's rare for a team to score more than twice its opponent's score, so $\frac{\text{Points Scored this Week}}{\text{Points Conceded this Week}}$ will rarely exceed 2. For a team with a current percentage of around 1.05 to 1.10 this means that $\left[\left(\frac{\text{Points Scored this Week}}{\text{Points Conceded this Week}} - \text{Percentage Prior to this Week} \right) \right]$ is unlikely to be more than about 0.95.

Now, to produce a large Change in Percentage we need the game to be a high scoring affair. But, if the Points Conceded are too high it becomes hard to imagine the winning team scoring double what they concede. So, let's say that the losing team scores between 60 and 80 (so the winning team scores between 120 and 160). This means that this final game will represent between 3 and 4% of the points conceded all season.

In total then the change in percentage will be $0.95 \times (3 \text{ to } 4\%)$ or about 2.8 to 3.8 percentage points. So a team with a 110 percentage might leap to 112.8 or 113.8 if it won by 120 to 60 or 160 to 80.

So, given that Collingwood is about 3 percentage points ahead of Adelaide and that Adelaide are about 4½ percentage points ahead of St Kilda, it's hard to imagine that any one of the teams on 48 points could win and, in so doing, leapfrog another team on 48 points that also won. Here are a couple of scenarios that demonstrate this:

Scenario A – St Kilda leapfrogs Adelaide

- Adelaide beat the Bulldogs 100-99.
- Adelaide's percentage drops by $(100/99 - 1.096) \times 99/(99+1771)$, which is about 0.45, moving it from 109.6 to 109.1.
- To leapfrog them, St Kilda needs to beat Essendon by 132-50. Alternatively, for every 10 points more (fewer) that the Dons score, St Kilda need to score 11 points more (fewer) to leapfrog the Crows.
- If Adelaide instead won 120-119 the Saints need about 2 points fewer than described previously.

Scenario B – Adelaide leapfrogs Collingwood

- Collingwood beat Fremantle 100-99.
- The Pies' percentage drops by $(100/99 - 1.129) \times 99/(99+1958)$, which is about 0.6, moving it from 112.9 to 112.3.
- To leapfrog them, Adelaide needs to beat the Bulldogs by 105-50. Alternatively, for every 10 points more (fewer) that the Dogs score, Adelaide need to score 11-12 points more (fewer) to leapfrog the Pies.
- If Collingwood instead won 120-119 the Crows need about 2 points fewer than described previously.

You'd want very good odds before you'd back any of these scenarios.

Given all that I think the summary is that 4th spot is:

- The Roos' if they win and probably not if they don't (unless the Pies, Roos, Crows and Swans all lose too)
- The Pies' if they win and the Roos don't
- The Crows' if they win and the Pies and the Roos don't
- The Saints' if they win and the Pies, Roos and Crows don't
- The Swans' if they win and the Pies, Roos, Crows and Saints don't

With so much conditionality surrounding 4th spot, it's difficult to meaningfully speculate about which teams will meet in the 5th plays 8th and the 6th plays 7th games. About all I can say is that if all the favourites win then the current ladder positions will prevail and it'll be Collingwood v Sydney (meaning they'll have met 3 times in the space of 9 weeks) and Adelaide v St Kilda in these two fixtures.

Team Rating System

This week MARS is tipping all 8 favourites.

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

- Pies by 7 points or more
- Kangaroos by 7 points or more
- Geelong by 47 points or more
- Adelaide by 1 point or more
- Hawthorn by 14 points or more
- Sydney by 8 points or more
- Richmond by 13 points or more
- St Kilda by 11 points or more

At most, Geelong can pick up around 2.2 ratings points this week, leaving them about 7 ratings points short of Essendon's highest rating in 2000 of 1,072.7, which they recorded at season end. (I should note though that Geelong started this season about 12 ratings points higher than Essendon did in season 2000).

Team	End R21
Geelong	1,063.6
Hawthorn	1,028.6
Western Bulldogs	1,015.4
Collingwood	1,013.9
Adelaide	1,011.5
Sydney	1,008.9
St Kilda	1,007.8
Kangaroos	1,006.9
Brisbane Lions	997.2
Fremantle	992.2
Port Adelaide	991.4
Carlton	987.8
Richmond	986.9
Essendon	976.7
West Coast	961.4
Melbourne	949.9

