Round 4 Essendon v W Bulldogs St Kilda v Geelong Kangaroos v Melbourne **Bulldogs 60-4** Geelong 64-0 Roos 64-0 (Docklands, 11th April 2008) (Docklands, 12th April 2008) (Gold Coast Stad, 12th April 2008) Sportsbet \$2.30 \$1.58 Sportsbet \$4.10 \$1.20 Sportsbet \$1.25 \$3.70 37% - 43% 57% - 63% 17% - 24% 76% - 83% 73% - 80% 20% - 27% Essendon +81/2 pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) St Kilda +25½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) Kangaroos -23½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) 7.04% (8.54%) on Essendon 9.35% (11.34%) on St Kilda Heritage Heritage Heritage Alpha Alpha Alpha Beta Beta Beta Chi Chi Chi Line Line Line Chi Western Bulldogs by 30 Geelong by 19 Chi Kangaroos by 14 Quila Western Bulldogs by 35 Quila Geelong by 13 Quila Kangaroos by 13 Shadow Western Bulldogs Shadow Geelong Shadow Kangaroos CTL Western Bulldogs CTL Geelong CTL Kangaroos Western Bulldogs (39-4) Geelong (43-0) Kangaroos (43-0) MM MM MM (Dissenters: MM9,10,17,18) (Dissenters: None) (Dissenters: None) Western Bulldogs (14-0) Geelong (14-0) Kangaroos (14-0) Super MM Super MM Super MM (Dissenters: None) (Dissenters: None) (Dissenters: None) Western Bulldogs **Uber MM** Geelong Uber MM **Uber MM** Kangaroos Simplified Western Bulldogs Simplified Geelong Simplified Kangaroos Sydney v West Coast Pt Adelaide v Bris Lions Hawthorn v Adelaide Sydney 38-26 Pt Adel 60-4 Hawthorn 48-16 (Football Park, 12th April 2008) (Stadium Australia, 12th April 2008) (Aurora Stadium, 13th April 2008) Sportsbet \$1.20 \$4.20 Sportsbet \$1.40 \$2.80 Sportsbet \$1.35 \$3.00 76% - 83% 17% - 24% 64% - 71% 29% - 36% 67% - 74% 26% - 33% Sydney -24½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) Pt Adelaide -151/2 pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) Hawthorn -171/2 pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) Heritage Heritage Heritage Alpha Alpha Alpha Beta Beta 3.75% (3.75%) on Port Adelaide Beta Chi Chi Chi Line Line Line Chi Chi Port Adelaide by 12 Chi Hawthorn by 5 (Game of the Round) Sydney by 26 Quila Sydney by 34 Quila Port Adelaide by 20 Quila Hawthorn by 16 Sydney Shadow Brisbane Lions Shadow Hawthorn Shadow **Brisbane Lions** CTL Hawthorn CTL Svdnev CTL West Coast (26-17) Port Adelaide (41-2) Hawthorn (29-14) MM ММ MM (Dissenters: MM2-5, 8-9 & 11-21) (Dissenters: MM2,3) (Dissenters: MM2, 4, 6, 12, 35-44) Sydney (14-0) Port Adelaide (14-0) Hawthorn (12-2) Super MM Super MM Super MM (Dissenters: None) (Dissenters: None) (Dissenters: SM3, 5) Uber MM Svdnev Uber MM Port Adelaide **Uber MM** Hawthorn Simplified Sydney Simplified Port Adelaide Simplified Hawthorn v Collingwood Fremantle v Richmond Carlton C'wood 64-0 Fremantle 63-1 (MCG, 13th April 2008) (Subiaco, 13th April 2008) Sportsbet \$4.00 \$1.22 Sportsbet \$1.12 \$5.50 18% - 25% 75% - 82% 82% - 89% 11% - 18% Carlton +26½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) Fremantle $-37\frac{1}{2}$ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90) 11.34% (13.76%) on Carlton Heritage Heritage Alpha Alpha Beta Beta Chi Chi Line Line Collingwood by 18 Chi Chi Fremantle by 7 Quila Collingwood by 19 Quila Richmond by 5 Shadow Collingwood Shadow Fremantle Collingwood Fremantle CTL CTL Collingwood (43-0) Fremantle (43-0) MM MM (Dissenters: None) (Dissenters: None) Collingwood (14-0) Fremantle (14-0) Super MM Super MM

Uber MM

Simplified

(Dissenters: None)

Fremantle

Fremantle

(Dissenters: None)

Collingwood

Collingwood

Uber MM

Simplified

This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

Well, say what you will about the Heritage Fund, but you can never question its confidence. Three more bets have been identified as 'value' by its algorithmic radar this week.

The H Fund's enthusiasm is shared, if a little less emphatically, by the Beta Fund, which has daintily selected a single wager for the weekend. Meantime the Alpha and Chi Funds have left their respective cues enracked, so our first canine-endorsed wager won't happen for at least another round.

This week the whole MAFL thing has started to feel familiar to me again. The Heritage Fund is making eyebrow-raising bets, and the bookies have persisted in cranking up the prices of the teams the Heritage Fund has wagered on, oblivious to – perhaps even buoyed by – the strength of the Heritage Fund's convictions.

Here's what the weekend has in store for Investors:

1. Heritage Fund: Essendon, 7.04% @ \$2.30 up against the Bulldogs

What is it with the Dogs? This is the fourth week that most Investors have needed to take an interest in the outcome of a Bulldogs' encounter, now twice as prosecution and twice as defence.

This would be a great bet to land first up as, though it wouldn't ensure a profitable weekend, it would cap the maximum loss for many Investors at 5% or less.

2. Heritage Fund: St Kilda, 9.35% @ \$4.10 playing Geelong

I've long held the belief that Geelong's price is often artificially held down by a bank of loyal, if at times misquided, ailurophilic wagerers. I can find no reason this week to abandon this conviction.

Not so long ago, the Saints were second-favourites and firming. Last week, admittedly, they played poorly for the last three quarters against the Dogs, but the Cats didn't exactly bury the Dees in the manner in which they were expected to either.

So, how come the Saints are at \$4.10?

This bet, I fancy, is a real chance, and landing it will ensure a profitable weekend for most Investors.

3. Beta Fund: Port Adelaide, 3.75% @ \$1.40 playing the Lions

A first and somewhat tentative bet from the Beta Fund, and one that can't do too much damage to any Investor no matter the outcome. Unfortunately I missed securing \$1.42 for the Power as their price changed whilst I was running the computer script to finalise the size of the week's wagers.

4. Heritage Fund: Carlton, 11.34% @ \$4.00 playing Collingwood

If any Investors arrive at Sunday afternoon having not already secured a profit, I hope they'll have a store of other, non-football related reasons to rate the weekend a success. Still, with Carlton, you just never know.

In summary, for profitability this weekend:

- Investor 016 needs Port Adelaide to win (approximate probability: 67%)
- All other Investors need either Carlton or St Kilda to win (approximate probability: 41%)

GO YOU PIVOTONIANS!

I'd venture that just about everyone reading this newsletter has only known the Hawthorn Football club as the Hawks. At one time, however, they were known as the Mustard Pots.

Other odd nicknames that have been associated with VFL/AFL teams include the Cockatoos (Carlton), the Same Olds (Essendon), the Gorillas (Fitzroy, now the Lions), the Tricolours (Footscray, now the Bulldogs), the Yellow and Black Angels (Richmond), the Fuchsias (Melbourne), and the Pivotonians (Geelong).

But it's not just team nicknames that can raise a smile or elicit a headscratch. A quick scan of the Internet uncovered these quirky team names: Joe Public FC (from Trinidad and Tobago), Take Care Tigers (Guam), Full Monty (Anguilla), Missiles FC (Gabon), Eleven Men In Flight (Swaziland)

(Thanks to Denis for contributing the information about VFL/AFL team nicknames, which came from a book entitled Small Talk authored by Eamon Evans)

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Tips

Essendon v Western Bulldogs (Bulldogs 60-4)

On the weight of tipster support, this game looks to be a comfortable Dogs victory: none of the dissenting tipsters have credentials that impress.

St Kilda v Geelong (Geelong 64-0)

Also looks a shoe-in based on tipster evidence, this time for the Cats, though neither Chi nor Quila are tipping a convincingly wide margin.

Kangaroos v Melbourne (Kangaroos 64-0)

If the Dees can't conjure a win this week I foresee a year of the Heritage Fund tossing ever-larger quantities of cash at them week after week when they're at home and as their price continues to rise. Assuming our tipsters are right, this is exactly the fate that awaits us.

Sydney v West Coast (Sydney 38-26)

This game looks to be a close-run thing given the divided loyalties of our tipsters, though Sportsbet has it as an easy Swans victory.

Port Adelaide v Brisbane Lions (Port Adelaide 60-4)

Very weak support for the Lions – just MM2, MM3, Shadow and CTL – though there's some doubt about the likely size of the victory amongst those tipsters who are offering a view. Chi has the margin at just 2 goals, Sportsbet at 2½ goals, and Quila at just under 3 goals. Whatever the margin, Investors will all welcome a Port victory.

Hawthorn v Adelaide (Hawthorn 48-16)

Though there are moderate levels of dissension amongst the tipsters overall, support for the Crows comes generally from the lesser-regarded tipsters. That said, Chi sees it as a close-run thing, so close in fact that he's made it his Game of the Round.

Carlton v Collingwood (Collingwood 64-0)

This is the second week in a row that the Pies have had the unanimous endorsement of tipsters. It's hard to envisage anything but validation of their support.

Fremantle v Richmond (Fremantle 63-1)

Quila stands alone as the sole tipster predicting a Tigers win. The bookies have Freo winning by over 6 goals; Chi sees it as a much narrower win.

So this week's most favoured are ... the eight favourites.

- Bulldogs
- Geelong
- Kangaroos
- Sydney

- Port Adelaide
- Hawthorn
- Collingwood
- Fremantle

Team Rating System

The MARS Predictor System has also opted for the favourites in all games this weekend.

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

- Bulldogs by 1 point or more
- Geelong by 11 points or more
- Kangaroos by 12 points or more
- Sydney by 10 points or more
- Port by 4 points or more
- Hawthorn by 2 points or more
- Collingwood by 14 points or more
- Fremantle by 11 points or more

If the Sportsbet margins prove to be good estimates of the final margins, then each of these teams should comfortably achieve the required margin of victory.

Team	End R3
Geelong	1,033.4
Sydney	1,017.0
Adelaide	1,013.5
Hawthorn	1,011.2
Collingwood	1,009.3
Fremantle	1,002.0
Port Adelaide	1,001.8
St Kilda	1,000.1
West Coast	999.9
Western Bulldogs	999.2
Brisbane Lions	997.7
Kangaroos	997.6
Essendon	990.6
Richmond	981.9
Melbourne	975.0
Carlton	969.8

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The Roos could force their way above 1,000 ratings points and possibly into the Top 8 this weekend if they can defeat the Dees by 39 points or more and if, among other results, the Dogs lose to the Demons or win only narrowly.

History suggests that, at the end of this round, the MARS Predictor System will have at least 6 of the 8 finalists correct. Only once in the past 8 seasons has it had only 5 correct at the end of the 4th round; on three occasions it's had 7 of 8 correct.

Bookmakers' Prices

Bookmakers have again made wholesale changes on the various markets this week, with only 9 of 128 prices we're tracking unmoved since last we checked.

	Bookmakers' Prices (10th April v 2nd April)							
	Premiership Winner			Final 8		Wooden Spoon		Miss 8
Team	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB
Geelong	2.60 S	2.60 S	2.55 S	1.01 S	1.01 -	1001.00 L	1001.00 -	13.00 L
Hawthorn	6.00 S	6.00 S	6.50 -	1.03 S	1.04 S	401.00 L	501.00 -	9.00 L
Collingwood	9.00 S	10.00 S	9.00 S	1.20 S	1.22 S	81.00 S	201.00 -	3.50 L
St Kilda	11.00 L	11.00 L	9.00 L	1.20 S	1.22 L	401.00 L	201.00 L	3.75 S
Sydney	13.00 S	13.00 S	13.00 S	1.45 S	1.40 S	51.00 L	201.00 L	2.35 L
Adelaide	13.00 S	13.00 S	16.00 S	1.45 S	1.50 S	71.00 L	126.00 L	2.35 L
Fremantle	17.00 S	17.00 S	18.00 S	1.48 S	1.57 S	26.00 S	51.00 L	2.25 L
Western Bulldogs	21.00 S	21.00 S	23.00 S	1.65 S	1.65 S	101.00 L	251.00 S	1.90 L
West Coast	23.00 L	23.00 L	26.00 L	2.10 L	2.15 L	71.00 S	34.00 S	1.55 S
Brisbane Lions	23.00 L	26.00 L	31.00 L	2.20 L	2.20 L	61.00 L	41.00 S	1.50 S
Port Adelaide	26.00 L	26.00 L	26.00 L	2.10 L	2.00 L	31.00 S	17.00 -	1.60 S
Essendon	26.00 S	34.00 S	43.00 S	2.10 S	2.20 S	15.00 -	41.00 L	1.55 L
Kangaroos	51.00 L	51.00 L	51.00 L	2.40 -	2.65 L	21.00 L	26.00 L	1.40 S
Carlton	151.00 L	201.00 L	201.00 L	9.00 L	8.00 L	5.00 S	4.50 -	1.03 S
Richmond	201.00 L	201.00 L	301.00 L	9.00 L	8.00 L	5.00 L	4.75 L	1.03 S
Melbourne	501.00 L	501.00 L	501.00 -	21.00 L	15.00 L	1.60 S	1.80 L	1.01 S
Over-round	21.1%	18.4%	16.9%	10.7%	9.8%	30.2%	21.3%	9.9%

A clear final 8 has emerged on the Sportsbet and Centrebet markets, though it's not the 8 teams that currently sit atop the ladder. Instead, Fremantle enters the 8 at the expense of the Dons.

Five other teams (including the Dons) are still considered reasonable prospects of a finals spot, though, all sitting at prices just over \$2.00.

The remaining 3 teams – Carlton, Richmond and Melbourne – look to be the only serious contenders for Spoon honours.

It seems awfully early in the season for it to happen, but two teams already find themselves at \$1.01 prices in different markets. The Cats are at \$1.01 to make the 8, and the Dees are at \$1.01 to miss it. I don't think either of those could be considered 'value' bets.

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

Cometti: Chambers has spent so much time on the bench this season he probably gets his mail delivered there.

Cometti: It's a very big crowd tonight with all major genders represented.

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

'til next time,

Tony

10 April 2008

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