

Looking at football  
from a different  
point of view

# MAFL 2008

24th April  
Round #6 2008

## Round 6

COL 65-0		Collingwood v Essendon (MCG, 25th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.47	\$2.60	62% - 68% 32% - 38%
	Collingwood -17½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	1.84% (1.96%) on Collingwood		
Line	-		
Chi	Collingwood by 8		
Quila	Collingwood by 4		
Shadow	Collingwood		
CTL	Collingwood		
MARS	Collingwood		
MM	Collingwood (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Collingwood (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Collingwood		
Simplified	Collingwood		

GEE 65-0		Fremantle v Geelong (Subiaco, 25th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$5.50	\$1.12	11% - 18% 82% - 89%
	Fremantle +32½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	7.07% (7.45%) on Fremantle		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Geelong by 25		
Quila	Geelong by 26		
Shadow	Geelong		
CTL	Geelong		
MARS	Geelong		
MM	Geelong (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Geelong		
Simplified	Geelong		

ADE 62-3		Carlton v Adelaide (MCG, 26th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$2.15	\$1.65	39% - 47% 53% - 61%
	Carlton +8½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	5.80% (6.11%) on Carlton		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Adelaide by 4 (Co-Game of the Round)		
Quila	Adelaide by 2		
Shadow	Adelaide		
CTL	Adelaide		
MARS	Adelaide		
MM	Adelaide (41-2) (Dissenters: MM2, 3)		
Super MM	Adelaide (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Adelaide		
Simplified	Carlton		

WCE 48-17		W Bulldogs v West Coast (Docklands, 26th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.20	\$4.20	76% - 83% 17% - 24%
	W Bulldogs -26½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Western Bulldogs by 10		
Quila	Western Bulldogs by 20		
Shadow	Western Bulldogs		
CTL	Western Bulldogs		
MARS	Western Bulldogs		
MM	West Coast (33-10) (Dissenters: MM2-8, 10, 17 and 21)		
Super MM	West Coast (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	West Coast		
Simplified	Western Bulldogs		

STK 43-22		Pt Adelaide v St Kilda (Football Park, 26th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.58	\$2.30	57% - 63% 37% - 43%
	Pt Adelaide -11½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	5.48% (5.86%) on Pt Adelaide		
Line	7.79% (8.52%) on St Kilda		
Chi	Pt Adel by 4 (Co-Game of the Round)		
Quila	Port Adelaide by 3		
Shadow	St Kilda		
CTL	St Kilda		
MARS	Port Adelaide		
MM	St Kilda (31-12) (Dissenters: MM2, 3, 23-32)		
Super MM	St Kilda (9-5) (Dissenters: SMM11, 13, 19, 21 and 23)		
Uber MM	St Kilda		
Simplified	Port Adelaide		

BL 65-0		Bris Lions v Melbourne (Gabba, 27th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.06	\$8.00	88% - 94% 6% - 13%
	Bris Lions -44½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Brisbane Lions by 12		
Quila	Brisbane Lions by 11		
Shadow	Brisbane Lions		
CTL	Brisbane Lions		
MARS	Brisbane Lions		
MM	Brisbane Lions (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Brisbane Lions (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Brisbane Lions		
Simplified	Brisbane Lions		

SYD 43-22		Kangaroos v Sydney (Docklands, 27th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$2.00	\$1.75	43% - 50% 50% - 57%
	Kangaroos +6½ pts (\$1.78 / \$2.05)		
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Sydney by 7		
Quila	Sydney by 12		
Shadow	Sydney		
CTL	Sydney		
MARS	Sydney		
MM	Sydney (26-17) (Dissenters: MM2, 7, 8, 15-28)		
Super MM	Sydney (10-4) (Dissenters: SM3, 5, 11 and 13)		
Uber MM	Sydney		
Simplified	Kangaroos		

HAW 65-0		Hawthorn v Richmond (MCG, 27th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.16	\$4.65	78% - 86% 14% - 22%
	Hawthorn -28½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Hawthorn by 12		
Quila	Hawthorn by 9		
Shadow	Hawthorn		
CTL	Hawthorn		
MARS	Hawthorn		
MM	Hawthorn (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Hawthorn		
Simplified	Hawthorn		



## Tips

Though neither Chi nor MARS will be making up any ground on BKB this weekend (as they've both opted for the 8 favourites), there's enough disagreement amongst the leading tipsters to make this an interesting round in the context of the overall tipping battle.

Here are the underdog tips amongst the remainder of the leading nine tipsters:

- MM16 - the Roos, West Coast and St Kilda
- SM3 and SM5 – the Roos and West Coast
- SM4 and SM6 – West Coast
- Simplified Über Model – the Roos and Carlton (which, by the way, means that MM2 has identical tips)

### *Collingwood v Essendon (Collingwood 65-0)*

Looks to be a comfortable Pies victory, though neither Chi nor Quila are tipping significant margins.

### *Geelong v Fremantle (Geelong 65-0)*

The Cats are understandably the unanimous choice for this game.

### *Adelaide v Carlton (Adelaide 62-3)*

Only MM2, MM3 and (unbelievably) the Simplified Über Model (SUM) are tipping the upset.

### *Western Bulldogs v West Coast (West Coast 48-17)*

With many of the MM (and hence the SMM) models recalling the glory days of the Eagles in the latter part of last season, we find West Coast as the unlikely tipsters' favourite in this game.

Significantly, it's MM2 through 8 who are amongst the dissenters. None of these models has a memory extending beyond Round 20 of last season.

### *Port Adelaide v St Kilda (St Kilda 43-22)*

This is the only other game of Round 6 where the majority tipster support is for the underdog.

Notable amongst the dissenters are Chi, Quila, MARS, MM2 and MM3, SUM and, of course, BKB.

### *Brisbane Lions v Melbourne (Brisbane Lions 65-0)*

Not even the memory-deficient MM2 and MM3 can find reason to support the Dees.

The bookies see it as almost a 7½ goal game. Chi and Quila see it as being a lot closer than this – just two goals – but are tipping the same result.

### *Kangaroos v Sydney (Sydney 43-22)*

Sydney are slight favourites for this game and have the majority support amongst the tipsters.

Dissenters include MM2, MM15, MM16, SM3, SM5 and SUM.

### *Hawthorn v Richmond (Hawthorn 65-0)*

Hawthorn are the overwhelming 4½-goal favourites for this game. Can Richmond surprise yet another team?

So, this week's most favoured comprise 6 favourites and 2 underdogs:

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Collingwood (Favourite) | • St Kilda (Underdog)        |
| • Geelong (Favourite)     | • Brisbane Lions (Favourite) |
| • Adelaide (Favourite)    | • Sydney (Favourite)         |
| • West Coast (Underdog)   | • Hawthorn (Favourite)       |

## Revisiting the Surprise Index

A few newsletters back I introduced the notion of a Surprise Index, which I went on to define for a round as the average probability of the teams that won in that round.

Since then, I've been pondering this measure and wondering if others had given the topic any serious thought and come up with better measures. It turns out, perhaps unsurprisingly (sorry), that others have given it much thought indeed, so much so that there's a generic term for the surprise that one should feel about the outcome of a random event: surprisal.

According to Information Theory, surprisal can be measured in any of three units, but the one we'll focus on is 'bits'. When measured using this unit, surprisal can be considered in a fairly intuitive way: an outcome warranting  $n$  bits of surprisal is an outcome with a probability equivalent to  $n$  coins coming down heads on the first toss. [More formally, Surprise =  $-\log_2(\text{Probability of the Outcome})$ ]

So, for example, consider a horse that's running at fair odds of 7/1 (ie with a true victory probability of 1 in 8). If it wins, the amount of surprise you're entitled to feel is 3 bits, since the horse's winning is as likely as three lobbed coins all coming down heads on the first toss.

Alternatively, if an even-money outcome is realised, it's worth 1 bit of surprisal, since its occurrence is equivalent to a single coin landing heads on the first toss.

Other probabilities can be mapped to bits in a similar manner, with outcomes having probabilities in excess of 50% mapping to values less than 1 bit and those having probabilities greater than 50% mapping to values more than 1 bit. In general, the more bits of surprisal associated with a given outcome, the more surprising that outcome is.

Having calculated the surprisal of each game in a round, the average bits of surprisal can then be calculated for the eight results comprising that round and, in so doing, the overall surprisal of the round's results can be estimated.

If we do this, setting aside draws, and defining:

- A Very Predictable round as one where the average bits of surprisal associated with the round's results is less than 0.75
- A Predictable round as one where the average bits of surprisal associated with the round's results is less than 0.875
- A Somewhat Predictable round as one where the average bits of surprisal associated with the round's results is less than 1
- An Unpredictable round as one where the average bits of surprisal associated with the round's results is 1 or more

then we find the historical results as recorded in the following table.

Ave Surprise Score	Round Type	% of Rounds 1999-2007	Uber Model Ave	"Good" Score
less than 0.75	Very Predictable	27%	6.75	7
0.75 < 0.875	Predictable	24%	5.97	6
0.875 < 1	Somewhat Predictable	25%	5.22	5½
1 or more	Unpredictable	24%	5.00	5

To date, this season has produced the following average surprisal scores (ignoring the draw in Round 5):

- Round 1: 0.842 (Predictable)
- Round 2: 0.749 (Very Predictable)
- Round 3: 0.834 (Predictable)
- Round 4: 1.101 (Unpredictable)
- Round 5: 0.726 (Very Predictable)

Subtracting one-half for the draw in Round 5, this would suggest that a good tipping score at this point of the season would be around 30½ (6 + 7 + 6 + 5 + 7 - ½). Currently, our leading tipster, BKB, is on 29½, the same score that leads the tipping experts in The Age.

From this week forward, I'll start reporting surprisal averages as part of the weekly round up.

## Team Rating System

The MARS Predictor System has opted for 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:

- C'wood by 11 points or more
- Geelong by 16 points or more
- Adelaide by 12 points or more
- Bulldogs by 6 points or more
- Pt Adelaide by 4 points or more
- Bris Lions by 15 points or more
- Sydney by 5 points or more
- Hawthorn by 14 points or more

If the bookie's predicted margins are correct, all of these teams should achieve these margins of victory.

This week we have two teams knocking on the door of the eight: St Kilda and the Brisbane Lions. The Saints are underdogs playing Port at Footy Park on Saturday and the Lions are very short-priced favourites playing Melbourne at the Gabba on Sunday.

The Roos are the team probably most at risk of dropping out of the eight, since they play the much-higher rated Swans at home on Sunday. A loss by 30 points or more would drive their rating below 1,000.

Team	End R5
Geelong	1,039.1
Sydney	1,018.4
Hawthorn	1,015.8
Adelaide	1,010.6
Collingwood	1,004.7
Kangaroos	1,002.3
Port Adelaide	1,001.8
Western Bulldogs	1,001.1
St Kilda	1,000.1
Brisbane Lions	999.2
Fremantle	994.7
West Coast	993.2
Richmond	989.1
Essendon	985.2
Carlton	976.5
Melbourne	968.2

## Bookmakers' Prices

Fancy turning \$1 into \$5,000? Well, open a Centrebet account, wager that \$1 on the Cats, and then hope that they somehow manage to lose all their remaining games this season and that every other team in the competition records at least 5 victories. Put that way, the odds of 5,000 to 1 that are on offer at Centrebet seem ridiculously short.

Team	Bookmakers' Prices (23rd April v 16th April)							
	Premiership Winner			Final 8		Wooden Spoon		Miss 8
	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB
Geelong	2.10 S	2.10 S	2.25 S	1.01 -	1.005 -	2001.00 L	5001.00 L	26.00 L
Hawthorn	4.80 S	5.00 S	5.00 S	1.01 S	1.01 S	2001.00 L	5001.00 L	23.00 L
St Kilda	12.00 L	12.00 -	13.00 -	1.18 L	1.20 S	401.00 L	251.00 L	3.50 L
Sydney	13.00 L	13.00 L	14.00 L	1.18 S	1.22 S	601.00 -	251.00 S	3.50 L
Adelaide	17.00 S	16.00 S	21.00 -	1.45 S	1.50 S	151.00 L	251.00 L	2.40 L
Western Bulldogs	18.00 L	21.00 L	18.00 L	1.30 L	1.33 L	601.00 -	501.00 -	3.00 S
Collingwood	21.00 L	21.00 L	21.00 L	1.50 L	1.50 L	81.00 S	126.00 S	2.15 S
Brisbane Lions	26.00 L	26.00 L	26.00 L	1.85 -	1.85 L	151.00 L	101.00 -	1.75 -
Port Adelaide	26.00 S	26.00 S	31.00 S	2.10 S	2.15 S	35.00 L	34.00 L	1.60 L
Kangaroos	35.00 S	41.00 S	36.00 S	1.90 S	1.80 S	151.00 L	201.00 L	1.70 L
Carlton	41.00 S	41.00 S	61.00 S	3.50 S	3.25 S	12.00 L	21.00 L	1.16 L
Fremantle	51.00 L	51.00 L	61.00 L	2.25 L	2.50 L	13.00 S	12.00 S	1.45 S
Essendon	61.00 L	67.00 L	67.00 -	3.50 L	3.50 L	15.00 S	21.00 -	1.16 S
Richmond	61.00 S	67.00 S	81.00 S	3.50 S	3.50 S	21.00 L	26.00 L	1.16 L
West Coast	101.00 L	67.00 L	101.00 L	5.00 L	5.00 L	6.00 S	6.50 S	1.12 S
Melbourne	501.00 -	501.00 -	1001.00 -	51.00 L	41.00 L	1.25 S	1.28 S	1.01 -
<b>Over-round</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>30.9%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>

Geelong continues to shorten in Premiership markets, so much so that they're now almost at even money, despite the fact that less than one quarter of the season proper is completed. Only one other team – Hawthorn – is at a single digit price.

In Final 8 markets there are now just 9 teams priced at shorter than even money to make the 8. Two of these teams – the Roos and the Lions – are also priced at shorter than even money to miss the final 8, which is perhaps the clearest demonstration of bookie overround that you could ever wish to see.

Melbourne, incredibly, are in the \$1.25 to \$1.28 price range to secure the Spoon, with only the Eagles considered a realistic chance to threaten them.

The latest GF Quinella market is shown in the table below. Sportsbet are still fielding a market for all 120 combinations, the lowest priced of which is \$3 for a Hawthorn v Geelong Grand Final. Next most favoured are Geelong v Sydney and Geelong v St Kilda matchups, which are each priced at \$7.50.

A price of \$56 for a Sydney v St Kilda GF seems fairly generous, as does \$21 for a Hawthorn v Sydney or Hawthorn v St Kilda pairing.

In contrast, a mere \$330 for a Melbourne v Geelong Granny seems positively miserly.

	Brisbane	Carlton	C'wood	Essendon	Fremantle	Geelong	Hawthorn	Kangaroos	M'bourne	Pt Adel	Richmond	St Kilda	Sydney	W Coast	Bulldogs
Adelaide	\$165	\$265	\$135	\$395	\$330	\$10	\$28	\$225	\$1,500	\$165	\$395	\$76	\$76	\$660	\$105
Brisbane		\$435	\$220	\$650	\$545	\$17	\$46	\$370	\$1,500	\$275	\$650	\$120	\$120	\$1,080	\$175
Carlton			\$350	\$1,000	\$860	\$27	\$74	\$590	\$1,500	\$435	\$1,000	\$195	\$195	\$1,500	\$280
Collingwood				\$525	\$435	\$13	\$37	\$295	\$1,500	\$220	\$525	\$100	\$100	\$870	\$140
Essendon					\$1,200	\$40	\$110	\$880	\$1,500	\$650	\$1,500	\$295	\$295	\$1,500	\$420
Fremantle						\$38	\$92	\$735	\$1,500	\$545	\$1,200	\$245	\$245	\$1,500	\$350
Geelong							\$3	\$23	\$330	\$17	\$40	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$67	\$11
Hawthorn								\$63	\$910	\$46	\$110	\$21	\$21	\$180	\$30
Kangaroos									\$1,500	\$370	\$880	\$165	\$165	\$1,400	\$240
Melbourne										\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Port Adelaide											\$650	\$120	\$120	\$1,000	\$175
Richmond												\$295	\$295	\$1,500	\$420
St Kilda													\$56	\$490	\$80
Sydney														\$490	\$80
West Coast															\$700

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Cometti: As they say defence is what goes round the ground.  
 (with thanks to Dan for reporting this one which he heard in the commentary of the Tigers v Dogs clash).

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW AUSSIE RULES' RULES?

The captain or acting captain of a Team requests that the field Umpire count the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

What happens if:

- (a) The opposing team has more than the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface?
- (b) The opposing team has the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface?

'til next time,  
 Tony  
 24 April 2008