

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

27th April
Round #6.1 2008

Round 6 Results

65 Correct		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	Won 0.86% (0.92%)		
Line	-		
Chi	Collingwood by 8		
Quila	Collingwood by 4		
Shadow	Collingwood		
CTL	Collingwood		
MARS	Collingwood		
MM	Collingwood (43-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Super MM	Collingwood (14-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Uber MM	Collingwood		
Simplified	Collingwood		
Result	Collingwood 23.16 (154) def Essendon 12.9 (81)		

65 Correct		Fremantle v Geelong (Subiaco, 25th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$5.50	\$1.12	
	11% - 18%	82% - 89%	
	Fremantle +32½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	Lost 7.07% (7.45%)		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Geelong by 25		
Quila	Geelong by 26		
Shadow	Geelong		
CTL	Geelong		
MARS	Geelong		
MM	Geelong (43-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Uber MM	Geelong		
Simplified	Geelong		
Result	Geelong 13.11 (89) def Fremantle 13.10 (88)		

62 Correct		Carlton v Adelaide (MCG, 26th April 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$2.15	\$1.65	
	39% - 47%	53% - 61%	
	Carlton +8½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	Lost 5.80% (6.11%)		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Adelaide by 4		
Quila	Adelaide by 2		
Shadow	Adelaide		
CTL	Adelaide		
MARS	Adelaide		
MM	Adelaide (41-2) <i>(Dissenters: MM2, 3)</i>		
Super MM	Adelaide (14-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Uber MM	Adelaide		
Simplified	Carlton		
Result	Adelaide 16.15 (111) def Carlton 11.15 (81)		

17 Correct		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) <i>(Dissenters: MM2-8, 10, 17 and 21)</i>		
Super MM	West Coast (14-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Uber MM	West Coast		
Simplified	Western Bulldogs		
Result	W Bulldogs 20.14 (134) def. West Coast 11.8 (74)		

22 Correct		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	Won 3.18% (3.40%)		
Line	Lost 7.79% (8.52%)		
Chi	Port Adelaide by 4		
Quila	Port Adelaide by 3		
Shadow	St Kilda		
CTL	St Kilda		
MARS	Port Adelaide		
MM	St Kilda (31-12) <i>(Dissenters: MM2, 3, 23-32)</i>		
Super MM	St Kilda (9-5) <i>(Dissenters: SMM11, 13, 19, 21 and 23)</i>		
Uber MM	St Kilda		
Simplified	Port Adelaide		
Result	Port Adelaide 12.10 (82) def. St Kilda 9.7 (61)		

65 Correct		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) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Super MM	Brisbane Lions (14-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Uber MM	Brisbane Lions		
Simplified	Brisbane Lions		
Result	Brisbane Lions 19.23 (137) def. Melbourne 13.7 (85)		

Drawn		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) <i>(Dissenters: MM2, 7, 8, 15-28)</i>		
Super MM	Sydney (10-4) <i>(Dissenters: SM3, 5, 11 and 13)</i>		
Uber MM	Sydney		
Simplified	Kangaroos		
Result	Kangaroos 9.10 (64) drew with Sydney 8.16 (64)		

65 Correct		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) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) <i>(Dissenters: None)</i>		
Uber MM	Hawthorn		
Simplified	Hawthorn		
Result	Hawthorn 14.22 (106) def. Richmond 15.4 (94)		

Round 6 Statistics		
Scoring	Winners	Losers
Goals	117	84
Behinds	111	60
Ave Score	109.6	78.5
Ave Marg	31.1	
Qtrs Won	Winners	Losers
1st	5	2
2nd	7	0
3rd	5	2
4th	5	2
Qtr Leads	Winners	Losers
End of 1st	5	2
End of 2nd	5	2
End 3rd	6	1
Tipping	Tipster	Score
1st	BKB	37
2nd	CTM	36
Last	MM35	27
Ave Score	6.05 (Std Dev = 0.61)	

Results in Review

MAFL Funds

I'll admit it – I've been stalling as long as I could before writing this section, updating spreadsheets, cutting and pasting tables, and just generally busying myself with the minutiae required to put this newsletter together each Sunday night.

But, delay I can no more. Freo's loss on Friday night to the Cats was painful. Viscerally so. The difference between the Heritage Fund being at \$0.82, as it now is, and \$1.21, which it would otherwise be, was the width of an AFL post. I can't recall having felt so numb in quite a while.

It's cold, cold comfort, but Freo's performance does show that the Cats are beatable, and this should serve to keep their price down in subsequent weeks (which, ironically, might cost us even more money if we're on the Cats' opponents and they lose). We'll see.

On a positive note, the Chi Fund performed well over the weekend, winning both its wagers, lifting its price back just below \$1.00.

No joy for the Line Fund, however, as its wager on St Kilda fell 10 points short. (So far this season has not been a good one for those, like the Line Fund, who wager on teams receiving start. Only 20 of the 48 teams that have received start have been successful on line betting.)

Combined, these results – 2 wins and 3 losses – have led to the table you see above, which is, once again, depressingly awash with red.

Ah but what could have been ...

Tipping

Despite the draw, this was the best tipping round so far this season, with 7 favourites snatching the points. Our tipsters averaged just over 6 correct tips each, with a standard deviation of just 0.61 tips reflecting the fact that no tipster did especially poorly, as the score distribution at right suggests.

Apart from the draw, only the Bulldogs win over the Eagles, and Port's victory over the Saints led to any widespread tipping inaccuracy.

Four tipsters tipped the maximum possible – 7½ tips – BKB, Chi, Quila and MARS.

As a consequence of this strong performance BKB continues to lead the pack and is now on 37 from 48 (77%), followed by Chi on 36 from 48 (75%), then MARS on 35 from 48 (73%), and SUM on 34 from 48 (71%) who, as predicted, is out-tipping the Über Model (who's tipped just 31 from 48). In last place, on 27 from 48, is MM35. The running totals for all tipsters appear in pictorial form in Appendix 1.

Surprisal

Ignoring the draw, this week's surprisal rating was "Very Predictable", which seems sensible given that 7 favourites were successful. Indeed, it was the most predictable round of the season so far, as you can see from the table below:

Investor #	Profit/Loss (%)
001	(10.70%)
002	(18.01%)
003	(10.47%)
004	(10.47%)
005	(11.98%)
006	(10.47%)
007	(10.47%)
008	(10.47%)
009	(10.47%)
010	-
011	-
012	(10.47%)
013	(10.47%)
014	(10.47%)
015	(5.62%)
016	(10.47%)

Score	# Tipsters
7½	4
6½	28
5½	33

Round	Average Surprisal per Winner (bits)	Number of Games included in Average	Number of Victorious Favourites	Ave MAFL Tipster Performance (SD in brackets)
1	0.84 (Predictable)	8	5	4.54 (0.59)
2	0.75 (Very Predictable)	8	7	5.06 (0.77)
3	0.83 (Predictable)	8	6	5.49 (0.77)
4	1.10 (Unpredictable)	8	5	4.37 (0.86)
5	0.73 (Very Predictable)	7	6	5.58 (1.00)
6	0.49 (Very Predictable)	7	7	6.05 (0.61)

Team Quarter-by-Quarter Analysis

As usual, the tables below show how each team is performing on a quarter-by-quarter basis.

RESULT AT END OF EACH QUARTER BY TEAM

	Quarter 1								Quarter 2								Quarter 3								Quarter 4							
	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%
Adelaide	12	2	1	3	10	125	128	97.7	5	4	0	2	16	267	227	117.6	6	4	0	2	16	427	392	108.9	4	4	0	2	16	610	528	115.5
Brisbane Lions	10	3	0	3	12	110	161	68.3	11	2	0	4	8	284	306	92.8	14	1	0	5	4	443	462	95.9	8	3	0	3	12	622	593	104.9
Carlton	3	4	1	1	18	181	136	133.1	7	4	0	2	16	341	296	115.2	8	3	0	3	12	457	432	105.8	11	2	0	4	8	591	651	90.8
Collingwood	8	3	0	3	12	145	139	104.3	4	4	0	2	16	337	274	123.0	3	5	0	1	20	477	389	122.6	7	3	0	3	12	674	563	119.7
Essendon	15	1	0	5	4	118	187	63.1	13	2	0	4	8	276	396	69.7	13	2	0	4	8	460	564	81.6	13	2	0	4	8	589	756	77.9
Fremantle	14	1	0	5	4	111	132	84.1	12	2	0	4	8	239	307	77.9	12	2	0	4	8	381	418	91.1	14	1	0	5	4	501	610	82.1
Geelong	5	4	0	2	16	165	117	141.0	1	5	0	1	20	370	250	148.0	1	5	0	1	20	517	370	139.7	1	6	0	0	24	706	483	146.2
Hawthorn	6	4	0	2	16	148	129	114.7	2	5	0	1	20	324	221	146.6	2	5	0	1	20	509	389	130.8	2	6	0	0	24	718	515	139.4
Kangaroos	1	5	0	1	20	165	85	194.1	10	3	0	3	12	285	252	113.1	5	4	0	2	16	454	382	118.8	6	3	1	2	14	583	558	104.5
Melbourne	16	0	0	6	0	73	157	46.5	16	0	0	6	0	176	372	47.3	16	0	0	6	0	265	597	44.4	16	0	0	6	0	430	792	54.3
Port Adelaide	11	2	1	3	10	142	130	109.2	9	3	0	3	12	288	251	114.7	9	3	0	3	12	435	424	102.6	12	2	0	4	8	567	625	90.7
Richmond	13	1	1	4	6	141	191	73.8	14	1	0	5	4	293	359	81.6	11	3	0	3	12	467	503	92.8	10	2	1	3	10	634	637	99.5
St Kilda	4	4	0	2	16	155	105	147.6	8	3	1	2	14	298	258	115.5	10	3	0	3	12	409	406	100.7	9	3	0	3	12	541	564	95.9
Sydney	7	4	0	2	16	123	114	107.9	3	4	1	1	18	269	197	136.5	7	3	0	3	12	389	286	136.0	5	3	1	2	14	526	423	124.3
West Coast	9	3	0	3	12	128	158	81.0	15	1	0	5	4	214	343	62.4	15	1	0	5	4	318	517	61.5	15	1	0	5	4	445	665	66.9
Western Bulldogs	2	5	0	1	20	172	133	129.3	6	4	0	2	16	353	305	115.7	4	4	0	2	16	579	456	127.0	3	5	1	0	22	804	578	139.1

QUARTERS WON, DRAWN & LOST BY TEAM

	Quarter 1								Quarter 2								Quarter 3								Quarter 4							
	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%	R	W	D	L	Pts	PF	PA	%
Adelaide	12	2	1	3	10	125	128	97.7	3	5	0	1	20	142	99	143.4	12	2	1	3	10	160	165	97.0	5	4	0	2	16	183	136	134.6
Brisbane Lions	10	3	0	3	12	110	161	68.3	6	4	0	2	16	174	145	120.0	5	4	0	2	16	159	156	101.9	10	2	1	3	10	179	131	136.6
Carlton	3	4	1	1	18	181	136	133.1	9	3	0	3	12	160	160	100.0	10	3	0	3	12	116	136	85.3	16	0	0	6	0	134	219	61.2
Collingwood	8	3	0	3	12	145	139	104.3	5	4	0	2	16	192	135	142.2	8	3	0	3	12	140	115	121.7	6	4	0	2	16	197	174	113.2
Essendon	15	1	0	5	4	118	187	63.1	10	3	0	3	12	158	209	75.6	9	3	0	3	12	184	168	109.5	12	2	0	4	8	129	192	67.2
Fremantle	14	1	0	5	4	111	132	84.1	14	1	0	5	4	128	175	73.1	7	3	0	3	12	142	111	127.9	15	1	0	5	4	120	192	62.5
Geelong	5	4	0	2	16	165	117	141.0	2	5	0	1	20	205	133	154.1	4	4	0	2	16	147	120	122.5	3	5	0	1	20	189	113	167.3
Hawthorn	6	4	0	2	16	148	129	114.7	1	6	0	0	24	176	92	191.3	13	2	0	4	8	185	168	110.1	1	6	0	0	24	209	126	165.9
Kangaroos	1	5	0	1	20	165	85	194.1	13	2	0	4	8	120	167	71.9	1	5	0	1	20	169	130	130.0	14	1	0	5	4	129	176	73.3
Melbourne	16	0	0	6	0	73	157	46.5	15	0	0	6	0	103	215	47.9	16	0	0	6	0	89	225	39.6	9	3	0	3	12	165	195	84.6
Port Adelaide	11	2	1	3	10	142	130	109.2	8	3	0	3	12	146	121	120.7	11	3	0	3	12	147	173	85.0	13	2	0	4	8	132	201	65.7
Richmond	13	1	1	4	6	141	191	73.8	11	2	1	3	10	152	168	90.5	2	5	0	1	20	174	144	120.8	7	3	0	3	12	167	134	124.6
St Kilda	4	4	0	2	16	155	105	147.6	12	2	0	4	8	143	153	93.5	14	2	0	4	8	111	148	75.0	11	2	0	4	8	132	158	83.5
Sydney	7	4	0	2	16	123	114	107.9	4	4	0	2	16	146	83	175.9	6	3	0	3	12	120	89	134.8	4	4	1	1	18	137	137	100.0
West Coast	9	3	0	3	12	128	158	81.0	16	0	0	6	0	86	185	46.5	15	1	1	4	6	104	174	59.8	8	3	0	3	12	127	148	85.8
Western Bulldogs	2	5	0	1	20	172	133	129.3	7	3	1	2	14	181	172	105.2	3	4	0	2	16	226	151	149.7	2	5	0	1	20	225	122	184.4

This week the Roos lost their first 1st quarter, meaning that no team in the competition has now every game in which it has played at the first change. In other 1st quarter news, Freo have broken their duck and now sit at 1 and 5 in first quarter performances. Melbourne, meantime, are still yet to register a win in this quarter (and, as it happens, are also winless in terms of 2nd and 3rd quarters).

The Hawks have maintained their record of winning every 2nd and 4th quarter, leaving them as the only team with an unblemished record in any quarter.

Carlton are the only team to have not won a final term.

The table at right shows the number of total quarters won, drawn and lost for every team.

The correlation between the rankings in this table and those of the competition ladder remains high with only the Saints having a significantly different ranking in each – 12th here and 9th on the competition ladder.

It seems incredible that a team can play so poorly that it wins, on average, just one quarter every two games, but that is exactly the performance that the Dees have posted so far this season.

Conversely, the Cats and the Hawks have performed so well this year they've lost an average of just one quarter per game.

	Total Quarters Won				
	R	W	D	L	Pts
Adelaide	5	13	2	9	56
Brisbane Lions	7	13	1	10	54
Carlton	10	10	1	13	42
Collingwood	5	14	0	10	56
Essendon	13	9	0	15	36
Fremantle	15	6	0	18	24
Geelong	1	18	0	6	72
Hawthorn	1	18	0	6	72
Kangaroos	8	13	0	11	52
Melbourne	16	3	0	21	12
Port Adelaide	10	10	1	13	42
Richmond	9	11	2	11	48
St Kilda	12	10	0	14	40
Sydney	4	15	1	8	62
West Coast	14	7	1	16	30
Western Bulldogs	3	17	1	6	70

Team Ratings Update

Collingwood's 73-point thumping of the Dons led to this weekend's largest MARS Rating point adjustment (5.1 points). The next largest (4.6 points) was a result of the Bulldogs' 60-point win over the Eagles. The remainder of the adjustments were around 3 ratings points or less. The table below has the Ratings details.

Team	Initial	Δ R1	End R1	Δ R2	End R2	Δ R3	End R3	Δ R4	End R4	Δ R5	End R5	Δ R6	End R6
Geelong	1,027.4	+0.3	1,027.7	+5.4	1,033.1	+0.3	1,033.4	+2.7	1,036.1	+3.0	1,039.1	-1.4	1,037.7
Sydney	1,010.7	-0.3	1,010.4	+5.4	1,015.7	+1.2	1,017.0	+4.4	1,021.4	-3.0	1,018.4	-0.4	1,018.0
Hawthorn	1,002.9	+5.5	1,008.5	+1.4	1,009.9	+1.4	1,011.2	+3.8	1,015.0	+0.8	1,015.8	-0.1	1,015.7
Adelaide	1,008.4	-0.8	1,007.6	+6.0	1,013.6	-0.1	1,013.5	-3.8	1,009.7	+0.8	1,010.6	+1.7	1,012.2
Collingwood	1,004.0	+2.2	1,006.2	-0.3	1,006.0	+3.4	1,009.3	-3.5	1,005.8	-1.1	1,004.7	+5.1	1,009.8
Western Bulldogs	988.4	+0.8	989.3	+6.3	995.6	+3.5	999.2	+2.7	1,001.9	-0.8	1,001.1	+4.6	1,005.7
Port Adelaide	1,007.4	-0.3	1,007.0	-5.4	1,001.7	+0.1	1,001.8	-2.3	999.5	+2.4	1,001.8	+1.7	1,003.5
Kangaroos	1,000.7	-5.4	995.3	+3.7	999.0	-1.4	997.6	+3.6	1,001.2	+1.1	1,002.3	+0.4	1,002.7
Brisbane Lions	999.6	-1.0	998.6	+0.3	998.9	-1.2	997.7	+2.3	1,000.0	-0.8	999.2	+3.1	1,002.3
St Kilda	1,001.0	+0.3	1,001.4	+2.3	1,003.7	-3.5	1,000.1	-2.7	997.4	+2.7	1,000.1	-1.7	998.4
Fremantle	1,004.0	-2.2	1,001.7	-1.4	1,000.3	+1.6	1,002.0	-6.5	995.5	-0.8	994.7	+1.4	996.1
Richmond	986.3	+2.6	988.9	-3.7	985.2	-3.4	981.9	+6.5	988.3	+0.8	989.1	+0.1	989.2
West Coast	1,006.6	+1.0	1,007.6	-6.0	1,001.6	-1.6	999.9	-4.4	995.5	-2.4	993.2	-4.6	988.6
Essendon	990.0	+5.4	995.4	-5.4	990.1	+0.5	990.6	-2.7	987.9	-2.7	985.2	-5.1	980.2
Carlton	975.2	-2.6	972.6	-2.3	970.4	-0.5	969.8	+3.5	973.3	+3.2	976.5	-1.7	974.8
Melbourne	987.2	-5.5	981.7	-6.3	975.3	-0.3	975.0	-3.6	971.4	-3.2	968.2	-3.1	965.1

Two teams – Freo and Richmond – enjoyed Ratings point increases despite losing, as the magnitude of their respective defeats was less than their Ratings point differential compared to their victors would have suggested.

RANKINGS

Team	Initial	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
Geelong	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydney	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Adelaide	3	5	3	3	4	4	4
Port Adelaide	4	6	7	7	9	7	7
West Coast	5	4	8	9	11	12	13
Collingwood	6	7	5	5	5	5	5
Fremantle	7	8	9	6	12	11	11
Hawthorn	8	3	4	4	3	3	3
St Kilda	9	9	6	8	10	9	10
Kangaroos	10	12	10	12	7	6	8
Brisbane Lions	11	10	11	11	8	10	9
Essendon	12	11	13	13	14	14	14
Western Bulldogs	13	13	12	10	6	8	6
Melbourne	14	15	15	15	16	16	16
Richmond	15	14	14	14	13	13	12
Carlton	16	16	16	16	15	15	15

There's was no change in the composition of the MARS Top 8 this week, merely a re-ordering, with the Bulldogs and the Roos swapping places.

So, the current predicted Final 8 is:

1. Geelong (no change)
2. Sydney (no change)
3. Hawthorn (no change)
4. Adelaide (no change)
5. Collingwood (no change)
6. Western Bulldogs (up 2)
7. Port Adelaide (no change)
8. Kangaroos (down 2)

Seven of these eight teams are now also in the top 8 of the competition ladder, the only exception being Port Adelaide who, in the MARS System (largely on the strength of their 2007 Season performances) is currently 7th and taking the top 8 place of the Brisbane Lions. In the MARS Ratings the Lions are just 0.4 ratings points behind the Roos, and in 9th place.

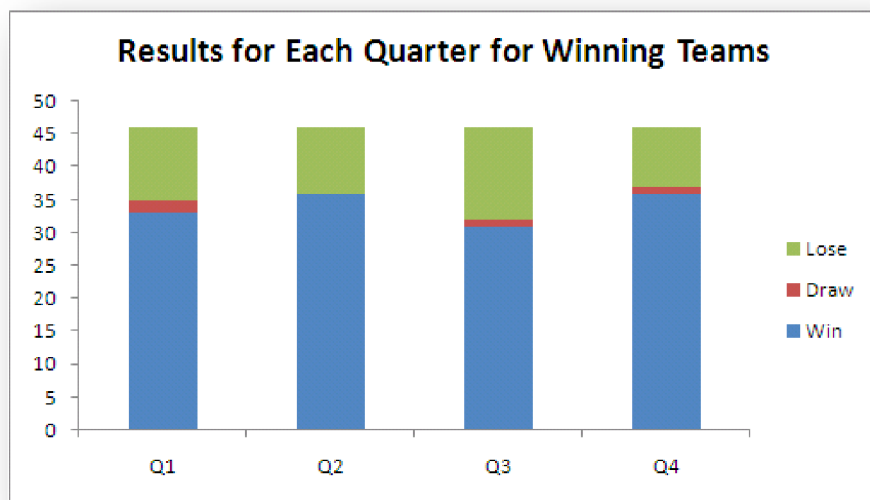
Historically, over seasons 2000 to 2007, the MARS Predictor System has correctly predicted 6.38 of the 8 finalists after 6 rounds. Its worst performance has been 5 from 8 (recorded in 2000 and 2004), and its best performance has been 7 from 8, which it has recorded in every other year except 2007 when it scored 6.

Across these same seasons, the Ratings points required to secure for various positions in the MARS Ratings have been as shown in the table at right.

Position	Average Requirement
1 st	1,036
Top 4	1,015
Top 8	1,000

Is The Third Quarter Losing Its Importance?

Whenever I've previously analysed which quarter it is that winners win, invariably it's been the 3rd quarter. Early indications are that, this year, things might be different, as the chart below attests.



For the 46 games of this season in which we've had a clear winner, the winning team has performed as follows:

- 1st Quarters: Won 33, Drawn 2
- 2nd Quarters: Won 36, Drawn 0
- 3rd Quarters: Won 31, Drawn 1
- 4th Quarters: Won 36, Drawn 1

It's a bit early to be calling the demise of the killer 3rd quarter, but I do find it interesting that it's now both the 2nd and the 4th quarters that are assuming greater importance.

Three teams in particular amongst the top 8 stand out as being differentially 2nd and 4th quarter performers:

- Hawthorn (2nd on the ladder): 1st in terms of 2nd and 4th quarter performances (see the Team Quarter-by-Quarter Analysis section above) and 6th and 13th in terms of 1st and 3rd quarter performances respectively
- Adelaide (4th on the ladder): 3rd in terms of 2nd quarter and 5th in terms of 4th quarter performances; 12th in terms of both 1st and 3rd quarter performances
- Sydney (5th on the ladder): 4th in terms of 2nd and 4th quarter performances; 7th in terms of 1st quarter and 6th in terms of 3rd quarter performances.

(To be fair, the Roos are something of an anomaly in all this. They're 6th on the ladder, 1st in terms of both 1st and 3rd quarters, yet 13th and 14th in terms of 2nd and 4th quarters respectively.)

Is there a hint here that fitness has been a major differentiator of performance so far this season?

Whilst winning the 3rd quarter might be diminishing in importance, leading at the end of it continues to be crucial. So far this season only 7 of the 46 games (15%) in which there's been a winner have been won by the team trailing at the final change.

In addition, only 8 have been won by the team trailing at the main break (there was also 1 tie), and 11 have been won by the team trailing at the 1st change (there were 2 ties). Put another way, less than 25% of teams trailing at the 1st change have gone on to win, and less than 20% of those trailing at the half have subsequently been victorious.

So, as I've said before, leading is important, and the sooner a team starts doing it, the better. Most important of all is to lead at the final change.

Whilst we're looking at quarter-by-quarter analyses, let's update our Proposition Bet statistics (for details see Appendix 2). As you can see from the table at right, the proposition is still holding up well, especially in terms of the First Point After a Randomly Chosen Time proposition.

(There seems to be a 2nd and 4th quarter effect at work here too, again hinting at the elevated importance of these quarters.)

% of Time Winning Team Is Scorer of		
Quarter	First Point after Nominated Random	First Goal After Nominated Random
	Time in Quarter	Time in Quarter
Q1	54%	58%
Q2	72%	76%
Q3	52%	46%
Q4	57%	63%
Combined	59%	61%

Here's the competition table as it now stands.

Team	Pts	%	GF	BF	PF	Acc %	Rank	GA	BA	PA	1	2	3	4	5	6
Geelong	24	146.2	103	88	706	53.9%	7	68	75	483	W	W	W	W	W	W
Hawthorn	24	139.4	104	94	718	52.5%	10	75	65	515	W	W	W	W	W	W
Western Bulldogs	22	139.1	120	84	804	58.8%	3	85	68	578	W	W	W	W	D	W
Adelaide	16	115.5	89	76	610	53.9%	6	76	72	528	L	W	W	L	W	W
Sydney	14	124.3	75	76	526	49.7%	14	57	81	423	L	W	W	W	L	D
Kangaroos	14	104.5	85	73	583	53.8%	8	81	72	558	L	W	L	W	W	D
Collingwood	12	119.7	98	86	674	53.3%	9	82	71	563	W	L	W	L	L	W
Brisbane Lions	12	104.9	88	94	622	48.4%	15	88	65	593	L	W	L	W	L	W
St Kilda	12	95.9	78	73	541	51.7%	11	84	60	564	W	W	L	L	W	L
Richmond	10	99.5	96	58	634	62.3%	1	92	85	637	W	L	L	W	D	L
Carlton	8	90.8	87	69	591	55.8%	4	97	69	651	L	L	L	W	W	L
Port Adelaide	8	90.7	83	69	567	54.6%	5	92	73	625	L	L	L	L	W	W
Essendon	8	77.9	88	61	589	59.1%	2	112	84	756	W	L	W	L	L	L
Fremantle	4	82.1	72	69	501	51.1%	13	87	88	610	L	L	W	L	L	L
West Coast	4	66.9	64	61	445	51.2%	12	99	71	665	W	L	L	L	L	L
Melbourne	0	54.3	60	70	430	46.2%	16	115	102	792	L	L	L	L	L	L

Amongst the various statistics in this table, Percentage remains the strongest correlate of ladder position. The table at right provides updated rank correlations:

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Rank Correlation between ladder position and ranking on ...

Percentage	+0.97
Goals For	+0.74
Points For	+0.75
Accuracy%	+0.18
Goals Against	-0.87
Points Against	-0.88

ANSWERS TO HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW AUSSIE RULES' RULES?

If the opposing team has more than the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface, law 5.5.3 *Players Exceeding Permitted Number* applies. It states :

Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b) a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
- (c) the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in the Match up to the time of the count.

But, if the opposing team has the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface, law 5.5.4 *Correct Number and Request Without Merit* applies. It states:

Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- (a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- (b) a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
- (c) if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under Law 5.5.1 primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting under Law 19.2.2

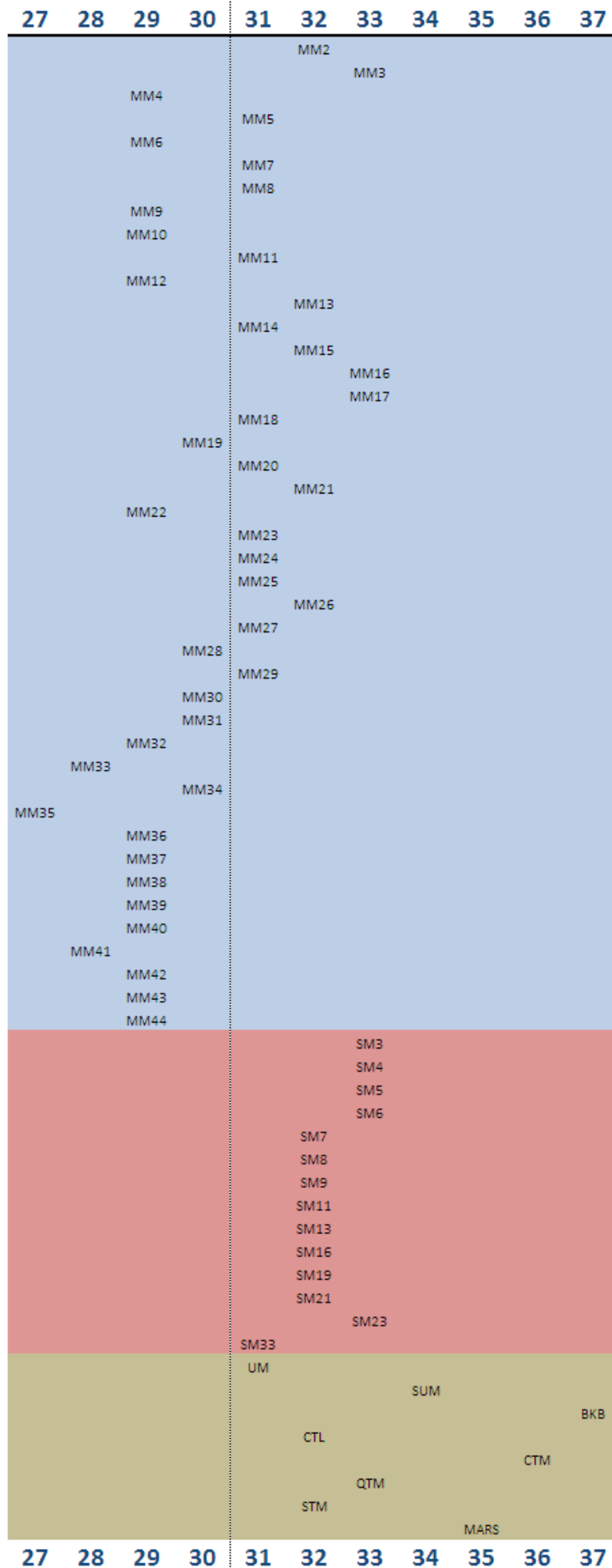
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'til Thursday,

Tony

27 April 2008

Appendix 1 : Cumulative Tipping Performance – All Tipsters



Appendix 2 : A Proposition Bet

I've a proposition for you. Pick any game from the 2008 schedule you like. Then, when it's played, turn on the coverage at some predetermined but random point in the game and tell me who's next to score – behind, rushed behind, goal, any score at all. I don't want you to tell me who's in front at that point; just tell me which team has just scored. I'll agree to wager with you that whichever team just scored will go on to win the game.

Now, my knowing who scored gives me a tiny bit of information about the game so, instead of expecting you to take the bet at even money, what say I accept a price of \$1.95 for every \$1 wagered? That's pretty generous. After all, you've only told me who happened to be the next team to score after some randomly determined point in the game. Surely that can't provide too much of an edge, can it? Will you take the bet?

If you think about it for a while, you'll realise that the value of this bet depends on the extent to which winning teams have more scoring shots in a game than do losing teams. (Actually, it also requires that neither winning nor losing teams tend to 'clump' their scoring one more than the other, but let's assume that this is true for the sake of this discussion). Pretty clearly, winners will tend to have more scoring shots than losers, but just how many more?

	Ave Scoring Shots		Ave Goals Scored		Ave Behinds Scored	
	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers
Q1	7.44	5.95	4.08	2.92	3.36	3.03
Q2	7.45	5.60	3.99	2.61	3.47	2.99
Q3	7.66	5.76	4.15	2.79	3.51	2.97
Q4	7.30	5.61	4.13	3.01	3.18	2.61
Total	29.86	22.93	16.35	11.33	13.51	11.60

	% of Scoring Shots		% of Goals Scored		% of Behinds Scored	
	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers
Q1	56%	44%	58%	42%	53%	47%
Q2	57%	43%	60%	40%	54%	46%
Q3	57%	43%	60%	40%	54%	46%
Q4	57%	43%	58%	42%	55%	45%
Total	57%	43%	59%	41%	54%	46%

Winner and Loser Scoring 2007

The table on the left provides the answer for all the regular season games of 2007. As you can see, winning teams record, on average, 57% of all scoring shots, making my 'generous' offer of \$1.95 ludicrously unjust. In the long term I'll make money on this wager at any price over \$1.77. In other words, the odds are a little better than 5/4-on that the team that scores next – whenever 'next' is – will be the team that wins.

Had I been even less generous I'd have asked you to wait until the next goal was scored and then to tell me who scored that. This team would be slightly longer than 3/2-on favourites to eventually win, and any price you offered over \$1.70 would be profitable

for me in the long run. By now though, I guess you'd be sceptical of any proposition bet I put to you, so I doubt I could get you to entertain the idea.

An interesting feature of the table above is the consistency of all the percentage figures across the four quarters. So, even if you malevolently picked a 'random' time deliberately from the first quarter, thinking that this would provide almost no information about the eventual winner, I'd still make money, on average, at any price of \$1.80 or above.

You might wonder how typical the scoring percentages were in 2007. In the table at right I've listed the total percentages for each of the last 8 seasons.

It's remarkable how consistent the numbers are from season to season: winning teams have 57-58% of all scoring shots, and kick 59-60% of all goals and 53-56% of all behinds.

	% of Scoring Shots		% of Goals Scored		% of Behinds Scored	
	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers	Winners	Losers
2007	57%	43%	59%	41%	54%	46%
2006	57%	43%	60%	40%	53%	47%
2005	57%	43%	60%	40%	53%	47%
2004	58%	42%	60%	40%	56%	44%
2003	57%	43%	59%	41%	54%	46%
2002	57%	43%	59%	41%	55%	45%
2001	58%	42%	60%	40%	55%	45%
2000	58%	42%	60%	40%	55%	45%

Winner and Loser Scoring 2000-2007

This year we're going to put my proposition bet to the test. Each week for each game I'll publish 4 random times, one for each quarter of the game. Then we'll track how often the first scorers after the nominated point are also the eventual winners. Wanna bet?