

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

1st May
Round #7 2008

Round 7

WC 54-11		West Coast v Carlton
(Subiaco, 2nd May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$2.35	\$1.55
	35% - 43%	57% - 65%
West Coast +11½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	6.23% (7.60%) on West Coast	
Alpha	-	
Beta	3.88% (4.03%) on West Coast	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Carlton by 6	
Quila	Carlton by 9	
Shadow	Carlton	
CTL	Carlton	
MARS	West Coast	
MM	West Coast (37-6) (Dissenters: MM2-7)	
Super MM	West Coast (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	West Coast	
Simplified	West Coast	

GEE 65-0		Geelong v Bris Lions
(Kardinia Park, 3rd May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.15	\$5.00
	80% - 87%	13% - 20%
Geelong -29½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Geelong by 17	
Quila	Geelong by 10	
Shadow	Geelong	
CTL	Geelong	
MARS	Geelong	
MM	Geelong (43-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Geelong	
Simplified	Geelong	

HAW 62-3		Hawthorn v Collingwood
(MCG, 3rd May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.47	\$2.55
	61% - 68%	32% - 39%
Hawthorn -15½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	1.84% (1.88%) on Hawthorn	
Line	-	
Chi	Hawthorn by 11	
Quila	Hawthorn by 12	
Shadow	Hawthorn	
CTL	Hawthorn	
MARS	Hawthorn	
MM	Hawthorn (40-3) (Dissenters: MM42-44)	
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Hawthorn	
Simplified	Hawthorn	

STK 63-2		St Kilda v Richmond
(Docklands, 3rd May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.50	\$2.50
	60% - 67%	33% - 40%
St Kilda -13½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	3.01% (3.09%) on St Kilda	
Line	-	
Chi	St Kilda by 11	
Quila	St Kilda by 3	
Shadow	St Kilda	
CTL	St Kilda	
MARS	St Kilda	
MM	St Kilda (41-2) (Dissenters: MM3-4)	
Super MM	St Kilda (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	St Kilda	
Simplified	St Kilda	

ADE 35-30		Adelaide v Kangaroos
(Football Park, 3rd May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.43	\$2.70
	63% - 70%	30% - 37%
Adelaide -15½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	
Alpha	5.05% (5.46%) on Adelaide	
Beta	5.05% (5.25%) on Adelaide	
Chi	0.06% (0.06%) on Adelaide	
Line	7.79% (9.32%) on Kangaroos	
Chi	Adelaide by 1 (Game of the Round)	
Quila	Adelaide by 7	
Shadow	Adelaide	
CTL	Adelaide	
MARS	Adelaide	
MM	Kangaroos (23-20) (Dissenters: MM2, 4-13, 36-44)	
Super MM	Tied (7-7) (Adelaide: SMM3,5,6,19,21,23,33)	
Uber MM	Adelaide	
Simplified	Adelaide	

SYD 55-10		Sydney v W Bulldogs
(SCG, 4th May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$1.48	\$2.55
	61% - 68%	32% - 39%
Sydney -15½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	
Alpha	6.87% (7.43%) on Sydney	
Beta	-	
Chi	2.26% (2.32%) on Sydney	
Line	-	
Chi	Sydney by 11	
Quila	Sydney by 8	
Shadow	Western Bulldogs	
CTL	Western Bulldogs	
MARS	Sydney	
MM	Sydney (35-8) (Dissenters: MM2-9)	
Super MM	Sydney (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Sydney	
Simplified	Sydney	

FRE 65-0		Melbourne v Fremantle
(MCG, 4th May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$3.70	\$1.25
	20% - 27%	73% - 80%
Melbourne +24½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	7.16% (8.73%) on Melbourne	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Fremantle by 9	
Quila	Fremantle by 18	
Shadow	Fremantle	
CTL	Fremantle	
MARS	Fremantle	
MM	Fremantle (43-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Super MM	Fremantle (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Fremantle	
Simplified	Fremantle	

POR 64-1		Essendon v Pt Adelaide
(Docklands, 4th May 2008)		
Sportsbet	\$3.05	\$1.35
	26% - 33%	67% - 74%
Essendon +20½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	5.74% (7.00%) on Essendon	
Alpha	-	
Beta	-	
Chi	-	
Line	-	
Chi	Port Adelaide by 10	
Quila	Port Adelaide by 13	
Shadow	Essendon	
CTL	Port Adelaide	
MARS	Port Adelaide	
MM	Port Adelaide (43-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Super MM	Port Adelaide (14-0) (Dissenters: None)	
Uber MM	Port Adelaide	
Simplified	Port Adelaide	

This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

You just don't know your own children, do you? Despite the hours that I've spent working on and tinkering with the scripts for the various Funds, I just can't predict what they'll do in any given week.

This week, for example, I felt certain that we'd be having a relatively quiet round, with 4, maybe 5, bets in total as we licked our wounds and re-energised for a future tilt at the markets.

Well, we've 12 bets, covering all 5 funds, and spanning 7 of the 8 games. So there'll be no respite.

Let's have a look at the detail.

1. *Heritage Fund: West Coast, 6.23% @ \$2.35 against Carlton*
Beta Fund: West Coast, 3.88% @ \$2.35 against Carlton

At some point this season the Eagles will win another game and, chances are, it'll be at home. Let's hope it's this week. Whilst I can completely understand the Heritage Fund's attraction to this bet, I'll confess to being a mite surprised that the Beta Fund is also interested. Still, it has historically been the more adventurous of the Alpha-Beta pair.

If the Eagles lead at the first change – and certainly if they lead at the half – I reckon this bet will be as good as banked.

2. *Chi Fund: Hawthorn, 1.84% @ \$1.47 playing Collingwood*

This is our first bet for the season on the Hawks and our third against the Pies, for which we're 1 and 2 but with a positive RONF.

The Hawks have been impressive so far this season and look to be reasonable value at \$1.47. No-one gets conspicuously wealthy nailing odds-on propositions though.

3. *Chi Fund: St Kilda, 3.01% @ \$1.50 playing Richmond*

Chi's second and largest bet is on the Saints at home to the Tigers, whose last three results have included the boxed set of one win, one draw and one loss.

The success of this wager will depend crucially on which Tigers team turns up.

4. *Alpha Fund: Adelaide, 5.05% @ \$1.43 playing the Kangaroos*
Beta Fund: Adelaide, 5.05% @ \$1.43 playing the Kangaroos
Chi Fund: Adelaide, 0.06% @ \$1.43 playing the Kangaroos
Line Fund: Kangaroos, 7.79% +15½ points @ \$1.90 playing Adelaide

For the first time in MAFL history, 4 funds are simultaneously wagering on the same game (though Chi's \$2 bet is somewhat inconsequential). It's also the first time this year that we've thrown money at the Crows.

The Roos are well-known in gambling circles as a relatively unloved team, so the likelihood is that we've not got complete value with our wager on the Crows. Nonetheless, an Adelaide victory should be cause for broad smiles and a victory by 2½ goals or less warrants a celebration.

5. *Alpha Fund: Sydney, 6.87% @ \$1.48 playing the Western Bulldogs*
Chi Fund: Sydney, 2.26% @ \$1.48 playing the Western Bulldogs

Sydney at home are a formidable team, with or without Decktha. Still, I wonder if \$1.48 is a good enough price given that the Swans are taking on the undefeated Dogs.

This game will be an excellent test of the two team's finals and flag credentials. Let's hope the Swans do a better job of differentiating between the big sticks and the little sticks this week.

6. *Heritage Fund: Melbourne, 7.16% @ \$3.70 playing Fremantle*

Home team, 4-goal underdog, seeks partner. Enter the Heritage Fund.

Combined, the various funds are 0 and 4 on Dees and Freo wagers this year. A Freo loss here would go some way to making up for their unforgivable loss last weekend (which, ironically, has probably shortened their price and lengthened the price that we've got for the Dees this weekend).

7. *Heritage Fund: Essendon, 5.74% @ \$3.05 playing Port Adelaide*

If there's any Fund that you'd back to have the last word in a round, it's the Heritage Fund.

Both teams have 2 and 4 records for the season and the Dons are at home. I reckon this one's a chance.

So, twelve bets in total across seven games, skipping only the all-feline affair in the Cats v Lions.

Here are the summary results for each Investor based this week on 1,000,000 simulations of the weekend's games (I've increased the number of simulations 10-fold as there are so many more possible results this weekend):

MIN #001					MIN #002					MIN #005				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst
RONF	(0.81%)	6.71%	18.73%	(11.92%)	RONF	(1.25%)	15.78%	39.51%	(19.13%)	RONF	(0.67%)	5.49%	15.52%	(10.94%)
ROI	(6.41%)	52.99%			ROI	(6.55%)	82.47%			ROI	(6.13%)	50.03%		
Prob. of Profit:	40%				Prob. of Profit:	34%				Prob. of Profit:	44%			
MIN #015					MIN ALL OTHERS					<p>The Mean RONF represents the expected increase in the value of the portfolio of the relevant Investor.</p> <p>The Mean ROI represents the expected return on the week's wagers.</p>				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst					
RONF	(0.67%)	3.65%	6.04%	(6.81%)	RONF	(0.77%)	5.59%	15.83%	(10.70%)					
ROI	(6.44%)	35.01%			ROI	(6.35%)	46.00%							
Prob. of Profit:	43%				Prob. of Profit:	43%								

Tips

Chi and Quila have each plumped for the eight favourites this weekend. Each of the other leading tipsters has found reason to disagree on at least one tip.

Here are the underdog tips amongst the some of the other leading tipsters:

- MM16 – the Roos and West Coast (both of which MM16 also tipped last week)
- Über Model and Simplified Über Model – West Coast
- MARS – West Coast
- MM2 – Western Bulldogs
- STM – Western Bulldogs and Essendon

West Coast v Carlton (West Coast 54-11)

Many of the MM models still recall the Eagles' victorious days of 2007, so much so that they've, once again, made them tipster favourites despite being bookie underdogs. The Blues are less than 2-goal favourites and C&Q are both tipping small margins, so this might be a close one.

Geelong v Brisbane Lions (Geelong 65-0)

Yet another week where the Cats are the unanimous choice.

Hawthorn v Collingwood (Hawthorn 62-3)

Only the 3 MM models with the longest memories – MM42, 43 and 44 – can find reason to support the Pies.

St Kilda v Richmond (St Kilda 63-2)

For this game it's the amnesiacs who are siding with the underdogs – MM3 and MM4 are the lone Tiger supporters. Quila, though, isn't entirely writing off the Tigers – she sees it as only a 3 point game.

Adelaide v Kangaroos (Adelaide 35-30)

This is the nearest we've had to a split result amongst the tipsters this season. Indeed, the SMM tipsters are split 7-7, and Chi's made it his Game of the Round, tipping just a one-point margin.

Perhaps most notable amongst the dissenters are MM16 and SM4.

Sydney v Western Bulldogs (Sydney 55-10)

The Bulldogs have supporters in MM2 and MM3, as well as in Shadow and CTL.

Chi has this game as the third for which he's tipped an 11 point margin. The bookies see it as a 15-16 point game, and Quila sees it as an 8 point game.

Melbourne v Fremantle (Fremantle 65-0)

No support at all for the hapless Dees, though Chi is tipping only a 9 point margin.

Essendon v Port Adelaide (Port Adelaide 64-1)

Only Shadow has tipped the Dons, purely on the strength of their winning when tipped in Round 3.

This week's most favoured comprise 7 favourites and 1 underdogs:

- West Coast (Underdog)
- Geelong (Favourite)
- Hawthorn (Favourite)
- St Kilda (Favourite)
- Adelaide (Favourite)
- Sydney (Favourite)
- Fremantle (Favourite)
- Port Adelaide (Favourite)

So You Think Tipping Winners Is Hard

Those of you who've been with MAFL awhile and who've ploughed through some of the denser material that's appeared in these pages might recall my references to tipster's or Fund's 'calibration', a term which I've used loosely to refer to the fact that a tipster or Fund is somehow 'aware' of the accuracy of its predictions.

So, for example, in one sense Chi's tips (by which I mean tipped team and tipped margin) were well calibrated last year because, as the table at right shows, the greater was his tipped margin, the higher was his accuracy. (In truth, Chi's calibration fell away for margins higher than about 24 points, for which he tipped at only about 70%, a phenomenon that I've conveniently masked here by judiciously starting the final category at 18 points.)

Tipped Margin	% Win
1-5 points	60.3%
6-11 points	61.5%
12-17 points	65.8%
18+ points	77.1%

The footy team at Monash University have taken this notion of calibration and cleverly applied it to create two tipping competitions where success is dependent not just on tipping the right team or the right margin, but also on accurately estimating how confident you should feel about these tips (for a lot more detail on these competitions, check out the url listed below.

<http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~footy/about.shtml>).

In Monash's Gaussian competition, tipsters must provide two numbers for each tipped game: a predicted margin and a number (technically, a standard deviation) that indicates how confident he or she is with the predicted margin. The points that a tipster receives for a game increase the nearer his or her tipped margin is to the actual margin and, assuming he or she is close, the smaller the standard deviation he or she supplied.

To give you some idea of how this works, the table at right shows how many points you would score for a particular game depending on how far your tipped margin was from the actual margin and on the standard deviation you provided, reflecting how confident you were about that margin.

		Absolute Difference Between Tipped and Actual Margin										
		0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Tipster	20	3.35	3.17	2.63	1.73	0.47	-1.16	-3.14	-5.48	-8.19	-11.25	-14.68
Provided	25	3.03	2.91	2.57	1.99	1.18	0.15	-1.12	-2.62	-4.36	-6.32	-8.51
Standard	30	2.77	2.69	2.45	2.05	1.49	0.76	-0.12	-1.16	-2.36	-3.72	-5.25
Deviation	35	2.54	2.49	2.31	2.01	1.60	1.07	0.43	-0.34	-1.22	-2.22	-3.34
	40	2.35	2.31	2.17	1.95	1.63	1.23	0.73	0.14	-0.53	-1.30	-2.16
	45	2.18	2.15	2.04	1.86	1.61	1.29	0.90	0.44	-0.10	-0.70	-1.38
	50	2.03	2.00	1.91	1.77	1.57	1.31	0.99	0.62	0.18	-0.31	-0.85

As you can see, if you're confident about the margin you provide and you're right, you're rewarded handsomely. Equally, though, if you're wrong, you're severely punished. On the Monash site it's suggested that, through trial and error, people have found that 40 is a good value to choose for the Standard Deviation. If I use this number to calculate the points that Chi would have amassed so far this year given his tipped margins, he'd currently be on 80.44 points, which would place him 11th in their competition. (Quila would be 14th on 79.28, and TAB Sportsbet would be 8th on 82.84)

In Monash's Probabilistic competition, each tipster must select a favoured team and that team's probability of winning (a draw can also be predicted). By inference he or she is at the same time providing an estimate of the probability of the other team winning, equal to 100% minus the probability he or she provided for the favoured team. So, if I said that I thought Geelong had a 90% probability of winning this weekend, by implication I'm also saying that the Lions have a 10% chance.

Prob.	Favoured Team ...		
	Wins	Loses	Draws
50%	0.00	0.00	0.00
55%	0.14	-0.15	-0.01
60%	0.26	-0.32	-0.03
65%	0.38	-0.51	-0.07
70%	0.49	-0.74	-0.13
75%	0.58	-1.00	-0.21
80%	0.68	-1.32	-0.32
85%	0.77	-1.74	-0.49
90%	0.85	-2.32	-0.74
95%	0.93	-3.32	-1.20
99%	0.99	-5.64	-2.33

Given the scoring system that's used in this competition (which, it turns out, is related to the surprisals we talked about last week) it can be mathematically proven that the optimum strategy for any given tipster is to accurately estimate each team's probability of victory. In other words, in the long run, teams to which he or she attaches, say, a 60% probability of victory should, optimally, win 60% of the time.

To give you an idea of how scoring works for this competition I've created the table on the left.

Imagine you tipped St Kilda to beat Richmond this weekend and you attached a probability of 65% to your tip. Then, if St Kilda won, you'd score 0.38 points (and wish you'd felt more confident). If they lost you'd score -0.51 points and if they drew you'd score -0.07 points.

I haven't yet worked out how Chi, Quila or other tipsters would have fared this season in this competition since it requires that I come up with a way of converting margins to probabilities. I'll undertake this piece of analysis of the next week or so and let you know the outcome.

For me, one of the fascinating things about these two competitions is that a 'good' but overconfident tipster will almost certainly lose out to someone who tips fewer winners but who has a more accurate handle on his or her own abilities.

Team Rating System

The MARS Predictor System has opted for seven favourites and the underdog eagles this weekend.

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

- W Coast by 8 points or more
- Geelong by 17 points or more
- Hawthorn by 5 points or more
- St Kilda by 7 points or more
- Adelaide by 7 points or more
- Sydney by 8 points or more
- Fremantle by 10 points or more
- Pt Adelaide by 7 points or more

With the exception of the Eagles, if the bookie's predicted margins are correct, all other of these teams should achieve these margins of victory.

At this point in the season, 5 teams appear as though they'll struggle to make the MARS Top 8: Richmond, West Coast, Essendon, Carlton and Melbourne. That said, a convincing underdog win – especially if it were away from home – could see one or two of these teams back in contention.

For those of you with an interest in records, the lowest rating score recorded for any team across the 1999-2007 period is the 946.15 that Carlton reached at the end of 2003. The Dees still have quite a way to go to threaten that mark.

Team	End R6
Geelong	1,037.7
Sydney	1,018.0
Hawthorn	1,015.7
Adelaide	1,012.2
Collingwood	1,009.8
Western Bulldogs	1,005.7
Port Adelaide	1,003.5
Kangaroos	1,002.7
Brisbane Lions	1,002.3
St Kilda	998.4
Fremantle	996.1
Richmond	989.2
West Coast	988.6
Essendon	980.2
Carlton	974.8
Melbourne	965.1

Bookmakers' Prices

With just 6 rounds completed we're starting to see wagers being taken off the board as bookies rate them as dead-certainties (Melbourne missing the Final 8, according to the TAB) or practical-impossibilities (Geelong or Hawthorn winding up with the Spoon, again according to the TAB).

Team	Bookmakers' Prices (30th April v 23rd April)								
	Premiership Winner			Final 8		Wooden Spoon		Miss 8	
	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	
Geelong	2.10 -	2.10 -	2.15 S	1.01 -	1.005 -	No Price L	5001.00 -	26.00 -	
Hawthorn	4.80 -	4.85 S	5.00 -	1.01 -	1.01 -	No Price L	5001.00 -	26.00 L	
Collingwood	13.00 S	13.00 S	13.00 S	1.50 -	1.45 S	251.00 L	201.00 L	2.15 -	
Sydney	14.00 L	15.00 L	15.00 L	1.15 S	1.16 S	601.00 -	251.00 -	3.75 L	
Adelaide	16.00 S	16.00 -	16.00 S	1.16 S	1.20 S	501.00 L	501.00 L	3.75 L	
Western Bulldogs	16.00 S	17.00 S	20.00 L	1.30 -	1.28 S	1001.00 L	501.00 -	3.00 -	
St Kilda	17.00 L	17.00 L	17.00 L	1.28 L	1.33 L	251.00 S	251.00 -	2.85 S	
Port Adelaide	17.00 S	17.00 S	20.00 S	1.85 S	1.95 S	81.00 L	101.00 L	1.75 L	
Brisbane Lions	21.00 S	21.00 S	25.00 S	1.65 S	1.70 S	251.00 L	126.00 L	2.00 L	
Kangaroos	41.00 L	41.00 -	41.00 L	1.75 S	1.80 -	201.00 L	251.00 L	1.90 L	
Fremantle	71.00 L	67.00 L	67.00 L	2.75 L	2.75 L	16.00 L	17.00 L	1.22 S	
Essendon	71.00 L	201.00 L	201.00 L	7.50 L	7.00 L	9.00 S	13.00 S	1.08 S	
Carlton	101.00 L	101.00 L	121.00 L	3.75 L	3.50 L	15.00 L	21.00 -	1.16 -	
Richmond	101.00 L	101.00 L	101.00 L	3.75 L	4.00 L	51.00 L	41.00 L	1.16 -	
West Coast	151.00 L	126.00 L	151.00 L	7.50 L	7.00 L	6.00 -	6.00 S	1.08 S	
Melbourne	1001.00 L	1001.00 L	2001.00 L	101.00 L	101.00 L	1.20 S	1.25 S	No Price S	
Over-round	20.3%	18.6%	14.0%	10.3%	9.4%	29.4%	21.4%	9.4%	

We've also got some remarkable differences appearing in the rankings on Premiership betting versus those on Final 8 betting. For example, with the TAB Collingwood is on the 3rd line of Premiership betting but the 7th line of Final 8 betting. Conversely, the Saints are on the equal 7th line for the Premiership, but the 5th line for the Final 8.

Such discrepancies imply that the bookies have very different opinions on some team's chances of winning the Premiership, given that they make the Final 8, as the table at right highlights.

I don't believe the bookmakers give any thought to such implied probabilities (and, the accuracy of them is, in any case, dependent on my assumption that over-round is spread equally across all teams, which, as we know, is probably not true for rank favourites and underdogs). Still, they do make for interesting conjecture. Are Port Adelaide really one-third more likely to win the flag than Sydney given that both teams make the eight?

	Probabilities		
	Win Premiership	Make 8	Win Premiership given they Make the 8
Geelong	39.6%	89.8%	44.1%
Hawthorn	17.3%	89.8%	19.3%
Collingwood	6.4%	60.5%	10.6%
Sydney	5.9%	78.9%	7.5%
Adelaide	5.2%	78.2%	6.6%
Western Bulldogs	5.2%	69.8%	7.4%
St Kilda	4.9%	70.9%	6.9%
Port Adelaide	4.9%	49.0%	10.0%
Brisbane Lions	4.0%	55.0%	7.2%
Kangaroos	2.0%	51.8%	3.9%
Fremantle	1.2%	33.0%	3.5%
Essendon	1.2%	12.1%	9.7%
Carlton	0.8%	24.2%	3.4%
Richmond	0.8%	24.2%	3.4%
West Coast	0.6%	12.1%	4.6%
Melbourne	0.1%	0.9%	9.2%

Briefly, taking a closer look at the Final 8 markets, we're again in the situation where we've 10 teams priced under even money to make the eight, highlighting just how competitive the lower spots on the finals ladder seem destined to be this season.

The Spoon battle is now considered almost solely a race-in-two between the Dees and the Eagles, with the Dees the firmest of favourites.

Though it's no longer possible to wager on the Dees missing the 8, it is possible to wager on them making the 8 and on them being part of a Grand Final Quinella. Who said betting markets need to be logical?

In GF Quinella betting, the Geelong v Hawthorn matchup continues to be the short-priced favourite and is considered to be about 2 or 3 times more likely than any other pairing.

One other shortish-priced outcome is a repeat of last year's GF, which is priced at a ridiculously short \$11. At the other extreme, a repeat of the pairings from the two previous Grand Finals - Sydney v West Coast - is at \$835. Given the Eagles' form, that's probably a little short too.

	Bris	Carl	Col	Ess	Fre	Gee	Haw	Kan	Mel	Por	Ric	StK	Syd	WC	WB
Adelaide	130	640	79	1275	450	10	28	260	1500	105	640	105	86	955	98
Brisbane		845	105	1500	590	13	36	340	1500	138	845	140	115	1270	130
Carlton			515	1500	1500	64	177	1500	1500	670	1500	670	555	1500	640
Collingwood				1025	365	8	22	210	1500	84	515	85	69	770	80
Essendon					1500	130	355	1500	1500	1350	1500	1350	1110	1500	1275
Fremantle						45	125	1170	1500	475	1500	480	390	1500	450
Geelong							3	26	645	11	65	11	9	97	10
Hawthorn								72	1500	29	175	29	24	270	28
Kangaroos									1500	275	1500	275	225	1500	260
Melbourne										1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Port Adelaide											670	115	91	1020	105
Richmond												670	555	1500	640
St Kilda													92	1020	105
Sydney														835	86
West Coast															955

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Cometti: "Ed [McGuire] had an aura. I remember he asked his personal assistant, 'Have you seen the letter opener?' and she replied, 'It's his day off'. I was impressed."

Cometti: "You've got to say the Lions are still a chance, given that this season, Port has blown more leads than Inspector Clouseau."

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Here are a few pieces of trivia of precisely zero value:

- The most common margin of victory so far this year has been 30 points. It's been the margin in 4 games, putting it two games clear of any other margin.
- So far no games have been won by the following margins this season: 4, 5, 8, 10, 11.
- The Bulldogs have kicked exactly twice the number of goals that Melbourne have (120 vs 60).
- Only 3 teams have conceded more behinds than they have goals so far this season: Geelong (68.75), Sydney (57.81) and Fremantle (87.88).

A busy weekend beckons. Let's hope we have the best of it.

'til next time,

Tony

1 May 2008