

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

15th May
Round #8 2008

Round 8

STK 36-29		St Kilda v Collingwood (Docklands, 16th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$2.15	\$1.65	
	39% - 47%	53% - 61%	
	St Kilda +8½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Collingwood by 1 (Game of the Round)		
Quila	Collingwood by 3		
Shadow	Collingwood		
CTL	St Kilda		
MARS	Collingwood		
MM	St Kilda (29-14) (Dissenters: MM2,5,25-36)		
Super MM	Collingwood (10-4) (Dissenters: SMM3,4,5,6)		
Uber MM	St Kilda		
Simplified	St Kilda		

HAW 63-2		Hawthorn v Pt Adelaide (Aurora Stadium, 17th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.35	\$3.10	
	68% - 74%	26% - 32%	
	Hawthorn -17½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	1.06% (1.13%) on Hawthorn		
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Hawthorn by 17		
Quila	Hawthorn by 13		
Shadow	Hawthorn		
CTL	Hawthorn		
MARS	Hawthorn		
MM	Hawthorn (41-2) (Dissenters: MM2,3)		
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Hawthorn		
Simplified	Hawthorn		

GEE 65-0		Richmond v Geelong (MCG, 17th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$4.50	\$1.18	
	15% - 22%	78% - 85%	
	Richmond +28½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	11.40% (12.76%) on Richmond		
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Geelong by 17		
Quila	Geelong by 18		
Shadow	Geelong		
CTL	Geelong		
MARS	Geelong		
MM	Geelong (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Geelong		
Simplified	Geelong		

BL 58-7		Carlton v Bris Lions (Docklands, 17th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.83	\$1.90	
	47% - 55%	45% - 53%	
	Carlton +6½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	10.15% (10.39%) on Carlton		
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Carlton by 4		
Quila	Carlton by 5		
Shadow	Carlton		
CTL	Brisbane Lions		
MARS	Brisbane Lions		
MM	Brisbane Lions (40-3) (Dissenters: MM3,4,5)		
Super MM	Brisbane Lions (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Brisbane Lions		
Simplified	Brisbane Lions		

KAN 52-13		Kangaroos v West Coast (Gold Coast Stad, 17th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.20	\$4.20	
	76% - 83%	17% - 24%	
	Kangaroos -27½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	10.66% (11.93%) on West Coast		
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Kangaroos by 15		
Quila	Kangaroos by 15		
Shadow	Kangaroos		
CTL	Kangaroos		
MARS	Kangaroos		
MM	Kangaroos (30-13) (Dissenters: MM32-44)		
Super MM	Kangaroos (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Kangaroos		
Simplified	Kangaroos		

ADE 65-0		Adelaide v Melbourne (Football Park, 18th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.06	\$7.50	
	87% - 94%	6% - 13%	
	Adelaide -39½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Adelaide by 26		
Quila	Adelaide by 23		
Shadow	Adelaide		
CTL	Adelaide		
MARS	Adelaide		
MM	Adelaide (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Adelaide (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Adelaide		
Simplified	Adelaide		

SYD 65-0		Sydney v Essendon (Stadium Australia, 18th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$1.06	\$7.50	
	87% - 94%	6% - 13%	
	Sydney -39½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)		
Heritage	-	-	-
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Sydney by 23		
Quila	Sydney by 24		
Shadow	Sydney		
CTL	Sydney		
MARS	Sydney		
MM	Sydney (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Sydney (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Sydney		
Simplified	Sydney		

WB 64-1		Fremantle v W Bulldogs (Subiaco, 18th May 2008)	
Sportsbet	\$2.10	\$1.68	
	40% - 48%	52% - 60%	
	Fremantle +6½ pts (\$1.87 / \$1.93)		
Heritage	3.83% (4.29%) on Fremantle		
Alpha	-	-	-
Beta	-	-	-
Chi	-	-	-
Line	-	-	-
Chi	Western Bulldogs by 13		
Quila	Western Bulldogs by 16		
Shadow	Western Bulldogs		
CTL	Western Bulldogs		
MARS	Western Bulldogs		
MM	Western Bulldogs (42-1) (Dissenters: MM38)		
Super MM	Western Bulldogs (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Western Bulldogs		
Simplified	Western Bulldogs		

NB The Fremantle / Bulldogs Head-to-Head market was \$2.05 / \$1.70 when the Line market was posted.

Also, the Carlton / Lions Head-to-Head market was \$2.00 / \$1.75 when the Line market was posted.

This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

We've only 5 wagers this weekend though each of them is on a different game. One major surprise for me is that the Heritage Fund has passed up an opportunity to wager on a home team underdog. Apparently \$2.15 for the Saints is just not juicy enough when the Pies are the opponents.

Let's have a look at the detail of the week's wagers.

1. *Beta Fund: Hawthorn, 1.06% @ \$1.35 against Port Adelaide*

The Hawks have looked sensational so far this season and \$1.35 looks like a borderline-reasonable price. Even better value was the Hawks' opening price of \$1.42, which was on offer for less than 3 hours before the TAB Sportsbet bookie was forced to shorten it in an attempt to obtain some semblance of balance. At \$1.42 the Beta Fund would have had a much more substantial wager.

2. *Heritage Fund: Richmond, 11.40% @ \$4.50 playing Geelong*

A quintessential Heritage Fund wager and a potentially season-changing result.

The Cats have looked vulnerable in recent weeks though they retain the unnerving ability to string long sequences of goals together, so much so that you never feel a lead is a safe one when you've wagered against them.

3. *Chi Fund: Carlton, 10.15% @ \$1.83 playing the Lions*

At the time Chi placed this bet the Blues were still narrow favourites, having opened the week at \$1.80 before starting to drift on Tuesday. At the time of my writing this paragraph they'd blown to \$2.00.

It's an uncharacteristically confident call from our canine companion on the Blues; let's hope it's also a good one.

4. *Heritage Fund: West Coast, 10.66% @ \$4.20 playing the Kangaroos*

A relatively unusual set of circumstances has led us to wager on this game.

When the draw for the season came out I deemed the Gold Coast Stadium as a Roos home ground on the basis that they were scheduled to play 4 games there, which met my threshold for deeming a ground as a home ground. Subsequent to the draw's release the Roos opted to stay in Melbourne and to reduce the number of games they would be playing at the Gold Coast.

So, this game becomes a 'no home team' game, which allows the head-to-head funds to consider a wager on either team. It also bumps up any Heritage Fund wager by 50%.

May it please be this weekend that the Eagles respond to their firming in the Spoon market.

5. *Heritage Fund: Fremantle, 3.83% @ \$2.10 playing the Western Bulldogs*

In context, this Freo wager is somewhat inconsequential and will either be icing on an already agreeable cake or a man with a glass of water turning up to refill the pool.

Here are the summary results for each Investor based on 100,000 simulations of the weekend's games:

MIN #001	MIN #002	MIN #005																																													
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Tips

Chi and Quila have once again opted to tip the eight favourites this weekend, though one of those favourites – the Blues – has since become the underdog. BKB, by the way, will also be shown as tipping the Blues since the Blues were favourites on Wednesday when tips and wagers are generally locked in.

Here are this week's underdog tips amongst the some of the other leading tipsters:

- MARS – the Lions
- Über Model and Simplified Über Model – St Kilda and the Lions
- MM2 – Port Adelaide
- CTL – St Kilda and the Lions

St Kilda v Collingwood (St Kilda 36-29)

The high level of support shown here makes it all the more curious that the Heritage Fund isn't on the Saints this weekend.

Dissenters include a majority of the MM models, SMM3, 4, 5 and 6, and, as noted above, the Über and Simplified Über Models.

Though Chi and Quila have both tipped the Pies, they've tipped very narrow margins. Chi, in fact, has it as his Game of the Round.

Hawthorn v Port Adelaide (Hawthorn 63-2)

Only MM2 and MM3 – both swayed, as they must be, by Port's very recent form – have found reason to tip against the Hawks.

Richmond v Geelong (Geelong 65-0)

Yet another week where the Cats are the unanimous and logical choice.

Carlton v Brisbane Lions (Brisbane Lions 58-7)

It took the bookies until late Wednesday to concur with the majority tipster view that the Lions should start favourites.

Apart from BKB, Carlton has the support of the 3 Dogs and MM3, 4 and 5.

Kangaroos v West Coast (Kangaroos 52-13)

That the Eagles should find themselves tipped by 20% of our tipsters is something of a surprise given their \$4.20 price tag.

All of the support, however, comes from the MM models with longest memories: MM32 through MM44. Just how relevant is the Eagle's late 2006 form to tipping the result of a contest in May 2008? We'll see, I suppose.

Adelaide v Melbourne (Adelaide 65-0)

Despite their Round 7 heroics, Melbourne find themselves friendless this week.

Sydney v Essendon (Sydney 65-0)

The Dons, as the Tigers and the Dees, are without tipping support this weekend, which is maybe a little odd when you consider that, although the Dons are 0-4 in recent starts, the Swans are only 1½-2½ over the same period and that solo win was back in Round 4.

Fremantle v Western Bulldogs (Western Bulldogs 64-1)

Only MM38, a tipster that's 9 tips off the joint lead, is tipping Freo. This despite the fact that the Dockers are at \$2.10 and shortening.

So, this week's most-favoured teams are as follows

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • St Kilda (Underdog) | • Kangaroos (Favourite) |
| • Hawthorn (Favourite) | • Adelaide (Favourite) |
| • Geelong (Favourite) | • Sydney (Favourite) |
| • Brisbane Lions (Underdog) | • Western Bulldogs (Favourite) |

Which Team's To Blame For Your Poor Tipping?

It struck me this week that our surprisal measure gives us a way to objectively answer the following question: which team has been the hardest to tip this season and which has been the easiest?

The table at right shows the total surprisal – measured, as you'll recall, in bits – that's been associated with the results of the games involving each particular team.

The Bulldogs, Roos, Swans and Tigers have all registered one draw apiece this season, and the 6.6 bits that attach to such a result has pushed all four of them, artificially one might suggest, to the top of the table.

In the column headed 'Ex Draws' I've removed the effect of these draws and then, in the column headed 'Rank', shown the effect of this removal on teams' overall rankings.

Team	Sum of Bits	Per Game	Ex Draws	Rank
Richmond	12.82	1.83	0.88	5
Western Bulldogs	12.53	1.79	0.84	6
Sydney	11.49	1.64	0.69	11
Kangaroos	11.44	1.63	0.69	12
Fremantle	8.36	1.19	1.19	1
Collingwood	6.97	1.00	1.00	2
Carlton	6.63	0.95	0.95	3
Port Adelaide	6.38	0.91	0.91	4
Brisbane Lions	5.71	0.82	0.82	7
Adelaide	5.51	0.79	0.79	8
West Coast	4.97	0.71	0.71	9
St Kilda	4.94	0.71	0.71	10
Essendon	4.78	0.68	0.68	13
Hawthorn	4.59	0.66	0.66	14
Melbourne	4.34	0.62	0.62	15
Geelong	2.70	0.39	0.39	16
Grand Total	114.17	1.02	0.81	-

Based on the adjusted rankings the team that can claim to have had this season's Most Surprising set of results is

Fremantle. Having witnessed Freo redefine the notion of an 'unassailable lead' two weeks running, who can argue with that conclusion? At just under 1.2 bits per game the surprise associated with their average result is roughly equivalent to that of a team winning when priced at \$2.30.

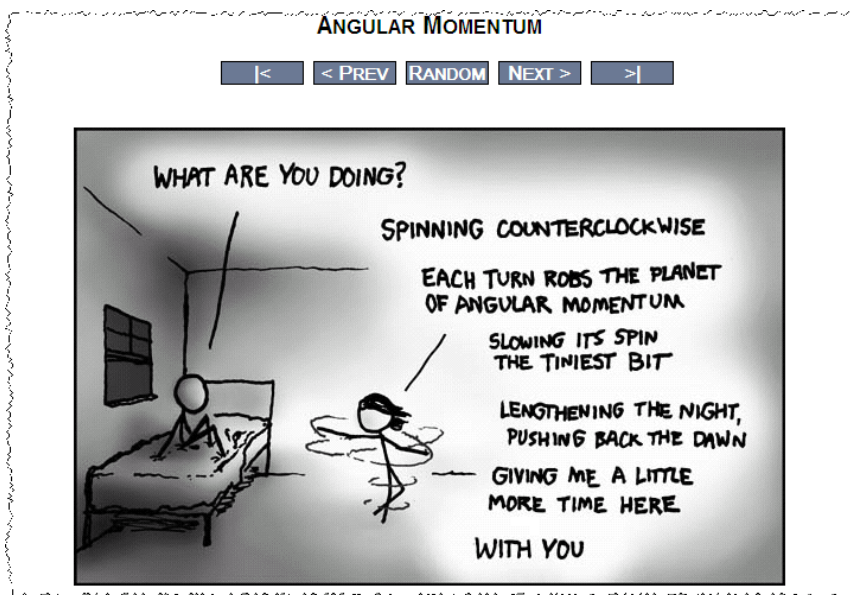
Collingwood own the next most surprising set of results and, like Freo, do so because of unexpected underachievement. Their average result has yielded 1 bit of surprisal, the equivalent of an even-money favourite being victorious.

In third spot is Carlton on 0.95 bits. The relatively high levels of surprise inherent in their results has been of the 'pleasant' variety for Blues supporters, coming as it has from their unexpectedly good results.

The lowest levels of surprise have been generated by the Cats' results. At just 0.39 bits, their typical result has caused about as much surprise as a "hear, hear!" from the government side of the House on Budget night.

Melbourne's results had been equally as unsurprising as those of the Cats until Round 7 when the Dees' come-from-ridiculously-way-behind victory earned them 2 whole bits, almost doubling their season total.

We'll revisit this topic once or twice more over the course of the season.



(Yet another strip from www.xkcd.com)

See, even geeks can be romantic.)

Team Rating System

Once again, the MARS Predictor System has opted for seven favourites and one 'underdog' this weekend (they too have gone for the Lions).

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

- Collingwood by 1 point or more
- Hawthorn by 8 points or more
- Geelong by 18 points or more
- Brisbane by 7 points or more
- Kangaroos by 7 points or more
- Adelaide by 23 points or more
- Sydney by 19 points or more
- Bulldogs by 4 points or more

One remarkable fact about these margins is how close in relative terms they are to the forecast margins of Chi and Quila (they're all within about 10 points) despite the fact that they are derived in a significantly different manner.

Based on the handicaps on offer the bookies expect only the Bulldogs and the Lions to struggle to achieve these margins.

Team	End R7
Geelong	1,038.6
Hawthorn	1,020.8
Sydney	1,015.5
Adelaide	1,014.7
Port Adelaide	1,008.3
Western Bulldogs	1,008.1
Collingwood	1,004.7
Brisbane Lions	1,001.4
Kangaroos	1,000.3
St Kilda	998.1
Fremantle	994.5
Richmond	989.5
West Coast	984.4
Carlton	979.0
Essendon	975.4
Melbourne	966.7

Team	Δ to R7
Geelong	+11.2
Hawthorn	+17.8
Sydney	+4.8
Adelaide	+6.2
Port Adelaide	+0.9
Western Bulldogs	+19.7
Collingwood	+0.7
Brisbane Lions	+1.7
Kangaroos	-0.4
St Kilda	-3.0
Fremantle	-9.5
Richmond	+3.2
West Coast	-22.1
Carlton	+3.8
Essendon	-14.6
Melbourne	-20.5

With about one-third of the regular season now completed, I thought it'd be interesting to look at the ratings point movements that each team has registered since the season commenced. These figures appear in the table at left.

As you can see:

- 10 teams have gained ratings points while 6 have lost points
- 8 of the 10 who have gained comprise the top 8
- The other two gainers – the Tigers and the Blues – are coming off very poor 2007 seasons
- None of the teams who have dropped ratings points are currently in the top 8
- The Bulldogs have recorded the greatest increase. Hawthorn and Geelong are next best
- West Coast has recorded the greatest decline. Melbourne and Essendon are next.

Geelong, with their current rating of 1,038.6 are still about 20 ratings point less than their 2007 peak. Sydney are about 12 ratings points below their 2007 peak, and Adelaide are just 7 points shy. Hawthorn, the other top 4 team, have been so impressive already this season that they are now rated 6 points higher than they were at any time during the 2007 season.

