

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

MAFL 2008

22nd May
Round #9 2008

Round 9

GEE 65-0		Collingwood v Geelong	
(MCG, 23rd May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$4.50	\$1.18	
	15% - 22%	78% - 85%	
Collingwood +27½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)			
Heritage	10.05% (15.84%) on C'wood		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Geelong by 11		
Quila	Geelong by 5		
Shadow	Geelong		
CTL	Geelong		
MARS	Geelong		
MM	Geelong (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Geelong (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Geelong		
Simplified	Geelong		

FRE 50-15		Carlton v Fremantle	
(Docklands, 24th May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$1.80	\$1.95	
	49% - 56%	44% - 51%	
Carlton -6½ pts (\$2.02 / \$1.78)			
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Fremantle by 1 (Game of the Round)		
Quila	Carlton by 1		
Shadow	Carlton		
CTL	Carlton		
MARS	Fremantle		
MM	Fremantle (33-10) (Dissenters: MM2-11)		
Super MM	Fremantle (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Fremantle		
Simplified	Carlton		

SYD 56-9		Pt Adelaide v Sydney	
(Football Park, 24th May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$1.52	\$2.45	
	59% - 66%	34% - 41%	
Pt Adelaide -11½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)			
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	3.70% (4.23%) on Port Adelaide		
Line	-		
Chi	Port Adelaide by 9		
Quila	Port Adelaide by 11		
Shadow	Sydney		
CTL	Sydney		
MARS	Sydney		
MM	Sydney (37-6) (Dissenters: MM3-5,19,27,30)		
Super MM	Sydney (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Sydney		
Simplified	Sydney		

RIC 36-29		Essendon v Richmond	
(MCG, 24th May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$3.05	\$1.35	
	26% - 33%	67% - 74%	
Essendon +19½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)			
Heritage	7.10% (11.19%) on Essendon		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Richmond by 13		
Quila	Richmond by 17		
Shadow	Essendon		
CTL	Richmond		
MARS	Richmond		
MM	Essendon (26-17) (Dissenters: MM2-17,19)		
Super MM	Richmond (12-2) (Dissenters: SM21, SM23)		
Uber MM	Richmond		
Simplified	Richmond		

ADE 64-1		West Coast v Adelaide	
(Subiaco, 24th May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$3.60	\$1.26	
	21% - 28%	72% - 79%	
West Coast +22½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)			
Heritage	7.62% (12.01%) on West Coast		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Adelaide by 12		
Quila	Adelaide by 13		
Shadow	Adelaide		
CTL	Adelaide		
MARS	Adelaide		
MM	Adelaide (42-1) (Dissenters: MM36)		
Super MM	Adelaide (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Adelaide		
Simplified	Adelaide		

STK 50-15		Bris Lions v St Kilda	
(Gabba, 25th May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$1.20	\$4.20	
	76% - 83%	17% - 24%	
Bris Lions -28½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)			
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Brisbane Lions by 11		
Quila	Brisbane Lions by 15		
Shadow	St Kilda		
CTL	Brisbane Lions		
MARS	Brisbane Lions		
MM	St Kilda (35-8) (Dissenters: MM2-8,17)		
Super MM	St Kilda (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Brisbane Lions		
Simplified	Brisbane Lions		

HAW 65-0		Melbourne v Hawthorn	
(MCG, 25th May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$11.00	\$1.03	
	3% - 9%	91% - 97%	
Melbourne +48½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)			
Heritage	11.95% (18.83%) on Melbourne		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Hawthorn by 14		
Quila	Hawthorn by 13		
Shadow	Hawthorn		
CTL	Hawthorn		
MARS	Hawthorn		
MM	Hawthorn (43-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Super MM	Hawthorn (14-0) (Dissenters: None)		
Uber MM	Hawthorn		
Simplified	Hawthorn		

WB 35-30		W Bulldogs v Kangaroos	
(Docklands, 25th May 2008)			
Sportsbet	\$1.40	\$2.80	
	64% - 71%	29% - 36%	
W Bulldogs -17½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)			
Heritage	-		
Alpha	-		
Beta	-		
Chi	-		
Line	-		
Chi	Western Bulldogs by 9		
Quila	Western Bulldogs by 13		
Shadow	Western Bulldogs		
CTL	Western Bulldogs		
MARS	Western Bulldogs		
MM	Kangaroos (23-20) (Dissenters: MM2-14,33-35,38,42-44)		
Super MM	Kangaroos (7-7) (Dissenters: SM4,7,8,9,16,19,21)		
Uber MM	Western Bulldogs		
Simplified	Western Bulldogs		

This Week's Round in Review

MAFL Wagers

The difference between being adjudged to have nobly persisted with a brilliant and brave course of action in spite of all indications to the contrary and being adjudged to have pig-headedly refused to reconsider and adapt to changing circumstances when disaster was clearly imminent, is a distinction often made only under the distorting spotlight of hindsight. Come Sunday afternoon when the final siren echoes around the G and the fates of the Pies, the Dons, the Eagles and the Dees have all been determined, the Heritage Fund will, surely, be so adjudged.

Here's the detail.

1. Heritage Fund: Collingwood, 10.05% @ \$4.50 against Geelong

Already this season, Investors with the recommended portfolio weightings have spent 11% of their initial investment in 4 fruitless wagers against the Cats.

I maintain that the Cats are beatable and that they can't continue to rely on wondrous spells of 10 or 20 minutes in order to put sides away, especially against sides with Finals intentions.

Clearly, the Pies' thumping by the Hawks in Round 7 is keeping bookmaker expectations low; \$4.50 does seem generous to me.

2. Chi Fund: Port Adelaide, 3.70% @ \$1.52 playing Sydney

This is one of only two wagers in this Round that we've placed on a team with a price lower than that currently being offered for Brendan Nelson to lead the Liberal Party into the next Federal Election (currently \$3.25 – the same as that for Peter Costello – on Sportingbet Australia. Malcolm Turnbull is at \$1.50).

Port's 3-game winning streak was terminated last weekend by the Hawks, who recovered from a lacklustre first quarter to go on to win by just 15 points.

Sydney blew Essendon off the park, but that's no real sign of any form when you consider that the Dons' have averaged almost 7 goals fewer than their opponents across the 8 games of the current season. Prior to that game Sydney had grabbed only 2 competition points from the most recent 12 on offer.

3. Heritage Fund: Essendon, 7.10% @ \$3.05 playing the Tigers

It's hard to get enthused about a wager on a team whose recent form reads like a row of parked cars at the ABC Learn-to-Drive Academy.

That said, the Tigers haven't exactly been accumulating competition points either: their last positive result was the draw they secured against the Bulldogs in Round 5 after they'd done all they could to handball the 4 points away.

4. Heritage Fund: West Coast, 7.62% @ \$3.60 playing Adelaide

This is the third round in succession that we've had at least one Fund with a wager on the Eagles. We're 0-3 on these wagers. Last week the Eagles missed out by just a kick against the Roos; the week before they got close against the Blues only to be overrun in the latter part of the 4th.

Adelaide have won their last 4 games and 6 of their last 7.

I think we're going to need 40,000 screaming West Aussies to do their parochial best.

5. Heritage Fund: Melbourne, 11.95% @ \$11.00 playing Hawthorn

Unless the Heritage Fund algorithm has acquired a heretofore unknown ability to predict devastating bouts of dysentery or similarly-debilitating diseases in opposition teams, I'm unable to cogently argue the case for this bet.

It is, in the finest traditions of "Yes, Minister", a "courageous" decision.

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

MIN #001					MIN #002					MIN #005				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst
RONF	(1.00%)	17.62%	76.19%	(15.80%)	RONF	(2.33%)	43.99%	189.04%	(36.72%)	RONF	(0.78%)	13.23%	57.39%	(12.31%)
ROI	(6.33%)	111.52%			ROI	(6.34%)	119.80%			ROI	(6.32%)	107.50%		
Prob. of Profit:	33%				Prob. of Profit:	33%				Prob. of Profit:	33%			
MIN #015					MIN ALL OTHERS					The Mean RONF represents the expected increase in the value of the portfolio of the relevant Investor. The Mean ROI represents the expected return on the week's wagers.				
	Mean	SD	Best	Worst		Mean	SD	Best	Worst					
RONF	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	RONF	(0.73%)	13.20%	57.00%	(11.57%)					
ROI	0.00%	0.00%			ROI	(6.33%)	114.12%							
Prob. of Profit:	0%				Prob. of Profit:	33%								

Tips

Quila and MM2 have tipped all 8 favourites this week. Chi's tipped just one underdog, Fremantle, and so, barring a draw, he'll either be level with BKB or drop 2 tips behind.

Amongst other leading tipsters here are the underdog tips:

- MARS and Über Model – Fremantle and Sydney
- Simplified Über Model and CTL – Sydney

Collingwood v Geelong (Geelong 65-0)

Geelong. Favourites. Unanimous. Again. Understandable.

Carlton v Fremantle (Fremantle 50-15)

Freo, though narrow underdogs on betting markets, are clear favourites with our tipsters. Amongst the 15 models tipping the Blues are BKB, Quila, Shadow, CTL, MM2 and SUM.

Port Adelaide v Sydney (Sydney 56-9)

Another game where the bookmakers' favourite is not the MAFL tipsters'. Port Adelaide has been tipped by BKB, Chi, Quila and 6 MM models.

Essendon v Richmond (Richmond 36-29)

There's considerable dissention here across the 65 MAFL tipsters, so this'll be an important game for determining which tipsters fare best this weekend. Most of the top tipsters have gone with the favourite.

West Coast v Adelaide (Adelaide 64-1)

Only MM36's opinion stands between Adelaide and unanimous tipster support. MM36 is 9 tips off the lead.

Brisbane Lions v St Kilda (St Kilda 50-15)

The third game where the majority tipster support is with the underdog. Support for the Lions comes from, amongst others, BKB, Chi, Quila, CTL, MARS, MM2, UM and SUM.

Melbourne v Hawthorn (Hawthorn 65-0)

Unanimous support for the Hawks, though only around 2-goal margins tipped by Chi and Quila (but 8 goals by the bookies).

Western Bulldogs v Kangaroos (Western Bulldogs 35-30)

There's narrow favouritism for the Bulldogs amongst MAFL tipsters. The Roos are tipped by a narrow majority of MM models and exactly one-half of the SMM models.

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

- Geelong (Favourite)
- Fremantle (Underdog)
- Sydney (Underdog)
- Richmond (Favourite)
- Adelaide (Favourite)
- St Kilda (Underdog)
- Hawthorn (Favourite)
- Western Bulldogs (Favourite)

Which Tipsters Could be Making Us Money?

Had we wagered \$1 on every tip from every model, how would we have fared so far this season?

The answers are in the table below.

Profitable			Mildly Unprofitable			Very Unprofitable		
Model	Profit/Loss	% Return	Model	Profit/Loss	% Return	Model	Profit/Loss	% Return
MM2	6.61	+10.3%	MM16	-0.18	(0.3%)	MM28	-3.83	(6.0%)
BKB	6.51	+10.2%	SM11	-0.27	(0.4%)	MM30	-3.95	(6.2%)
QTM	5.17	+8.1%	SM13	-0.27	(0.4%)	MM31	-3.95	(6.2%)
MARS	4.99	+7.8%	MM26	-0.28	(0.4%)	MM12	-4.96	(7.8%)
CTM	4.91	+7.7%	SM7	-0.30	(0.5%)	MM34	-5.03	(7.9%)
CTL	4.33	+6.8%	SM8	-0.30	(0.5%)	MM19	-5.04	(7.9%)
SUM	3.62	+5.6%	SM9	-0.30	(0.5%)	MM36	-5.24	(8.2%)
SM23	2.71	+4.2%	SM16	-0.30	(0.5%)	MM4	-5.58	(8.7%)
STM	2.63	+4.1%	SM4	-0.42	(0.7%)	MM10	-5.61	(8.8%)
MM7	1.90	+3.0%	SM33	-0.55	(0.9%)	MM22	-6.59	(10.3%)
SM3	1.59	+2.5%	MM13	-0.55	(0.9%)	MM32	-6.78	(10.6%)
SM5	1.59	+2.5%	MM17	-0.56	(0.9%)	MM37	-6.89	(10.8%)
MM8	1.08	+1.7%	MM6	-1.23	(1.9%)	MM39	-6.89	(10.8%)
MM5	1.07	+1.7%	MM25	-1.63	(2.5%)	MM40	-6.89	(10.8%)
SM19	1.03	+1.6%	Uber Model	-1.64	(2.6%)	MM41	-8.27	(12.9%)
SM21	1.03	+1.6%	MM15	-1.86	(2.9%)	MM33	-8.36	(13.1%)
SM6	1.01	+1.6%	MM21	-2.04	(3.2%)	MM42	-8.36	(13.1%)
MM3	0.22	+0.3%	MM29	-2.27	(3.5%)	MM43	-8.36	(13.1%)
			MM11	-2.35	(3.7%)	MM44	-8.36	(13.1%)
			MM27	-2.48	(3.9%)	MM38	-8.57	(13.4%)
			MM18	-3.14	(4.9%)	MM35	-9.71	(15.2%)
			MM20	-3.24	(5.1%)			
			MM24	-3.28	(5.1%)			
			MM14	-3.36	(5.3%)			
			MM9	-3.58	(5.6%)			
			MM23	-3.63	(5.7%)			

Amazingly – and largely because so many favourites have been successful – we'd have made money from as many as 18 of the models if we'd followed this very simple strategy. Of course, knowing in advance which 18 models to use would have required precognitive abilities that might better have been deployed in directly predicting match results.

Even more amazingly, we'd have made most money following MM2. So, the most successful strategy we know of so far is to look just at the last two rounds of results and bet accordingly.

It's also interesting to note that even the worst of the models from the SMM family – SM33 – has lost just over one-half of one unit whilst, in contrast, there's a whole slew of MM models, especially longer-term ones, that have recorded losses of 5 or more units.

Team Rating System

The MARS Predictor System has daringly selected two underdogs this weekend: Fremantle and Sydney.

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

- Geelong by 12 points or more
- Fremantle by 5 points or more
- Sydney by 3 points or more
- Richmond by 5 points or more
- Adelaide by 12 points or more
- Brisbane by 5 points or more
- Hawthorn by 22 points or more
- Bulldogs by 6 points or more

It seems unlikely that the composition the MARS Top 8 will change this week as it would take a sizeable Saints victory over the Lions and probably a Roos win over the Bulldogs.

Within the Top 8, the Top 4 now have a sizeable buffer of over 10 ratings points on the 5th-placed Port Adelaide, which surely would take at least two rounds to erase.

Team	End R8
Geelong	1,039.7
Hawthorn	1,020.6
Sydney	1,020.1
Adelaide	1,018.8
Port Adelaide	1,008.5
Western Bulldogs	1,008.1
Collingwood	1,005.6
Brisbane Lions	1,003.8
Kangaroos	1,000.3
St Kilda	997.2
Fremantle	994.5
Richmond	988.4
West Coast	984.5
Carlton	976.6
Essendon	970.8
Melbourne	962.5

Team	As at End of R8		
	2007	2008	Δ 08 v 07
Hawthorn	997.0	1,020.6	+23.5
Geelong	1,017.4	1,039.7	+22.3
Brisbane Lions	988.7	1,003.8	+15.1
Richmond	978.0	988.4	+10.4
Carlton	967.3	976.6	+9.3
Western Bulldogs	1,003.2	1,008.1	+5.0
Port Adelaide	1,004.2	1,008.5	+4.4
Kangaroos	996.1	1,000.3	+4.2
Sydney	1,016.5	1,020.1	+3.6
Collingwood	1,003.9	1,005.6	+1.8
Adelaide	1,017.8	1,018.8	+1.1
Fremantle	1,001.2	994.5	-6.7
St Kilda	1,005.3	997.2	-8.1
Melbourne	982.8	962.5	-20.3
Essendon	995.9	970.8	-25.1
West Coast	1,024.8	984.5	-40.4

A reader has asked me to provide information about each team's ratings at the same point in the previous season.

I've provided this in the table at left. I've also, in the final column, shown the ratings point change that each team has recorded between the end of Round 8 last season and the end of the same Round this season.

The Eagles' rating decline is quite dramatic. In fact, at the same time last season the Eagles were rated the number 1 team by the MARS Ratings System, 7 ratings points clear of Adelaide and Geelong.

Close inspection of the table reveals a much bigger spread of ratings this year compared to last, reflecting perhaps a wider range of abilities this year across the teams.

The ratings point gap between 1st and 9th last year was 24 points; this year it's 39 points. Between 1st and 16th last year the gap was around 58 points; this year it's 77 points.

Bookmakers' Prices

In the same way that we're seeing the spread of MARS Ratings increase so too are we seeing the prices in many of the markets tending toward the extremes.

- Only two teams are at single-digit prices to win the Flag and six are at prices in excess of \$100.
- Ten teams are priced under \$2 to make the Final 8 and the rest are priced at \$3.50 or more.
- Four teams are priced under \$10 for the Spoon and the remainder at \$26 or more. On Sportsbet, nine teams are priced at odds of 1,000/1 or more.

Team	Bookmakers' Prices (21st May v 14th May)							
	Premiership Winner			Final 8		Wooden Spoon		Miss 8
	TAB	Centrebet	Domebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB	Centrebet	TAB
Geelong	2.20 -	2.20 -	2.20 S	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -
Hawthorn	3.60 S	3.50 S	3.65 S	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -	No Price -
Western Bulldogs	10.00 S	10.00 S	12.00 S	1.02 S	1.02 S	No Price -	No Price -	No Price L
Adelaide	13.00 -	13.00 -	13.00 -	1.04 S	1.05 S	No Price L	No Price L	10.00 L
Sydney	17.00 S	21.00 -	21.00 S	1.22 S	1.22 S	1001.00 L	1001.00 L	3.40 L
Collingwood	18.00 S	17.00 S	21.00 -	1.45 S	1.45 S	1001.00 L	501.00 L	2.40 L
Brisbane Lions	21.00 S	21.00 S	21.00 S	1.40 S	1.28 S	1001.00 L	501.00 L	2.30 L
Port Adelaide	21.00 L	21.00 L	21.00 L	1.60 S	1.55 S	201.00 -	251.00 -	2.00 -
St Kilda	31.00 L	34.00 L	34.00 L	1.80 L	1.90 L	1001.00 L	501.00 -	1.75 S
Kangaroos	51.00 -	61.00 S	67.00 -	1.70 S	1.85 S	1001.00 L	1001.00 L	1.80 S
Carlton	101.00 L	126.00 L	161.00 L	3.75 L	3.50 L	26.00 S	41.00 S	1.18 S
Richmond	151.00 L	251.00 L	251.00 L	4.25 S	4.50 L	31.00 L	41.00 -	1.10 S
Fremantle	201.00 L	251.00 L	301.00 L	5.50 S	5.75 L	9.00 -	11.00 -	1.04 S
West Coast	501.00 L	501.00 L	601.00 L	51.00 L	26.00 L	3.30 L	4.00 L	No Price S
Essendon	1001.00 L	1001.00 L	1001.00 L	41.00 L	34.00 L	3.30 S	3.50 S	No Price S
Melbourne	1001.00 L	1001.00 L	1001.00 -	51.00 L	51.00 L	2.10 S	1.90 S	No Price S
Over-round	19.6%	18.5%	14.1%	8.5%	8.8%	27.4%	21.4%	7.4%

All 120 possible GF Quinellas remain available for wagering, though many of the \$1,500 options seem horrendously poor value. A quick calculation of the over-round on this market would seem to confirm this: it's just under 40%. That's not an 'edge', that's larcenous.

	Haw	WB	Ade	Col	Syd	BL	PA	StK	Kan	Car	Ric	Fre	WC	Ess	Mel
Geelong	2.9	7	8	11	12	15	15	21	41	70	110	145	355	705	705
Western Bulldogs		13	50	58	66	85	82	125	205	400	600	1000	1500	1500	1500
Hawthorn			16	20	22	27	27	40	66	135	200	265	655	1315	1305
Collingwood				80	100	125	125	185	310	610	920	1500	1500	1500	1500
Sydney					87	145	145	215	350	695	1040	1500	1500	1500	1500
Adelaide						110	110	160	265	530	800	1050	1500	1500	1500
Brisbane							175	265	435	865	1290	1500	1500	1500	1500
Port Adelaide								265	435	865	1290	1500	1500	1500	1500
St Kilda									650	1285	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Kangaroos										1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Carlton											1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Richmond												1500	1500	1500	1500
Fremantle													1500	1500	1500
West Coast														1500	1500
Essendon															1500

"We may have limped onto Broadway as the underdogs, but underdogs bite back occasionally".

Bernie Taupin

(Let's hope they're biting this weekend.)

'til Sunday,

Tony

22 May 2008