

Looking at football  
from a different  
point of view

# MAFL 2008

25th May  
Round #9.1 2008

## Round 9 Results

0 Correct		Collingwood v Geelong (MCG, 23rd May 2008)
Sportsbet	\$4.50	\$1.18
	15% - 22%	78% - 85%
	Collingwood +27½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)	
Heritage	Won 35.17% (55.43%)	
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	
Result	Collingwood 20.14 (134) def Geelong 7.6 (48)	

15 Correct		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	
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	
Result	Carlton 14.13 (97) def Fremantle 14.4 (88)	

56 Correct		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	Lost 3.70% (4.23%)	
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	
Result	Sydney 16.9 (105) def Port Adelaide 14.10 (94)	

36 Correct		Essendon v Richmond (MCG, 24th May 2008)
Sportsbet	\$3.05	\$1.35
	26% - 33%	67% - 74%
	Essendon +19½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)	
Heritage	Lost 7.10% (11.19%)	
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	
Result	Richmond 16.14 (110) def. Essendon 10.12 (72)	

1 Correct		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	Won 19.82% (31.23%)	
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	
Result	West Coast 14.13 (97) def. Adelaide 5.17 (47)	

15 Correct		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	
Result	Brisbane Lions 21.15 (141) def. St Kilda 14.11 (95)	

65 Correct		Melbourne v Hawthorn (MCG, 25th May 2008)
Sportsbet	\$11.00	\$1.03
	3% - 9%	91% - 97%
	Melbourne +48½ pts (\$1.90 / \$1.90)	
Heritage	Lost 11.95% (18.83%)	
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	
Result	Hawthorn 14.13 (97) def. Melbourne 12.6 (78)	

30 Correct		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	
Result	Kangaroos 16.17 (113) def. W Bulldogs 16.14 (110)	

Round 9 Statistics		
Scoring	Winners	Losers
Goals	131	92
Behinds	108	80
Ave Score	119.8	87.0
Ave Marg	32.8	
Qtrs Won	Winners	Losers
1st	6.5	1.5
2nd	4	4
3rd	5.5	2.5
4th	6	2
Qtr Leads	Winners	Losers
End of 1st	6.5	1.5
End of 2nd	6	2
End 3rd	6	2
Tipster	Tipster	Score
1st	BKB	54
2nd	CTM, MARS	52
Last	MM35	40
Ave Score	3.35 (Std Dev = 0.87)	

## Results in Review

### MAFL Funds

I should be happier.

This weekend's results have dragged the Heritage Fund up almost 36c to \$0.9940 vindicating its broad strategy and proving its continued ability to sniff out value.

But there are buts.

Port Adelaide could so easily have toppled the Swans. Instead the Chi Fund dropped another 3.7c to be at \$0.8385, and what once was a mighty 5 and 1 record is now a paltry 5 and 4.

And Melbourne – yes Melbourne – led the Hawks part way through the final term, teasing us with the prospect of a \$2 Heritage Fund share price, only for them to wonder and stumble and come up 19 points short.

At the end of it all there's still far too much red in that table on the right.

Next week ...

Investor #	Profit/Loss (%)
001	(9.23%)
002	(0.60%)
003	(9.68%)
004	(9.68%)
005	(14.29%)
006	(9.68%)
007	(9.68%)
008	(9.68%)
009	(9.68%)
010	-
011	-
012	(9.68%)
013	(9.68%)
014	(9.68%)
015	(8.64%)
016	(9.68%)

### Tipping

It had to come: a round in which the favourites struggled and, in more than a few cases, lost.

All of which is reflected in the average tipster performance, which this week stands at a meagre 3.35 from 8, comfortably the lowest average of the season by over 1 whole tip. The Sydney and Hawthorn wins were the only results foreseen by a majority of MAFL tipsters; the Cats', Crows', Dockers' and Saints' losses were all particularly under-predicted.

Score	# Tipsters
5	7
4	19
3	29
2	10

The Round's best tipsters were MM2, MM6, MM7, MM8, MM17, CTL, and SUM, each of whom scored 5. The worst tipsters comprised a ragtag of longer-memoried MM models and one SM model – SM21. They each scored just 2 from 8.

Overall, BKB is now on 54 from 72 (75%), two tips clear of Chi and MARS, each on 52 from 72 (72%), followed by MM2, CTL and SUM, each on 51 from 72 (71%). In last place, on 40 from 72, is MM35.

Running totals for all tipsters appear in pictorial form in Appendix 1.

### Surprisal

This was only the second time we've seen a round proclaimed "Unpredictable" based on the average surprisal of each game's result. Indeed, based on surprisal, this was the season's most surprising round.

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)
7	0.88 (Somewhat Predictable)	8	6	4.77 (0.93)
8	0.55 (Very Predictable)	8	7	7.09 (0.72)
9	1.16 (Unpredictable)	8	4	3.35 (0.87)

## Team Quarter-by-Quarter Analysis

Yet again 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	9	3	2	4	16	191	180	106.1	5	6	0	3	24	405	342	118.4	4	6	0	3	24	663	547	121.2	4	6	0	3	24	914	773	118.2
Brisbane Lions	6	6	0	3	24	221	216	102.3	9	4	0	5	16	466	410	113.7	12	3	0	6	12	734	648	113.3	8	5	0	4	20	966	885	109.2
Carlton	4	6	1	2	26	238	219	108.7	7	6	0	3	24	489	432	113.2	11	4	0	5	16	681	677	100.6	9	4	0	5	16	891	938	95.0
Collingwood	11	4	0	5	16	228	226	100.9	3	6	0	3	24	505	408	123.8	2	7	0	2	28	738	601	122.8	7	5	0	4	20	1000	859	116.4
Essendon	16	1	0	8	4	138	289	47.8	15	2	0	7	8	374	605	61.8	14	2	0	7	8	641	866	74.0	14	2	0	7	8	807	1167	69.2
Fremantle	14	2	0	7	8	204	207	98.6	11	4	0	5	16	417	440	94.8	7	5	0	4	20	647	631	102.5	15	1	0	8	4	813	940	86.5
Geelong	10	4	0	5	16	217	213	101.9	6	6	0	3	24	467	400	116.8	3	7	0	2	28	710	586	121.2	2	8	0	1	32	958	764	125.4
Hawthorn	7	5	0	4	20	217	214	101.4	2	6	0	3	24	464	366	126.8	1	8	0	1	32	770	608	126.6	1	9	0	0	36	1086	784	138.5
Kangaroos	1	6	2	1	28	244	159	153.5	13	3	0	6	12	405	431	94.0	8	5	0	4	20	647	638	101.4	6	5	1	3	22	859	858	100.1
Melbourne	15	1	0	8	4	137	263	52.1	16	1	0	8	4	283	557	50.8	16	0	0	9	0	436	866	50.3	16	1	0	8	4	701	1152	60.9
Port Adelaide	8	4	1	4	18	265	206	128.6	8	5	0	4	20	513	425	120.7	10	4	0	5	16	727	684	106.3	12	3	0	6	12	921	941	97.9
Richmond	13	3	1	5	14	219	237	92.4	10	4	0	5	16	453	452	100.2	9	5	0	4	20	678	722	93.9	11	3	1	5	14	920	918	100.2
St Kilda	5	6	0	3	24	238	185	128.6	12	3	1	5	14	428	443	96.6	13	3	0	6	12	616	694	88.8	10	4	0	5	16	840	915	91.8
Sydney	2	7	0	2	28	235	172	136.6	1	6	1	2	26	427	349	122.3	6	5	0	4	20	639	496	128.8	5	5	1	3	22	868	681	127.5
West Coast	12	4	0	5	16	178	209	85.2	14	3	0	6	12	339	467	72.6	15	2	0	7	8	512	707	72.4	13	2	0	7	8	699	912	76.6
Western Bulldogs	3	6	1	2	26	263	238	110.5	4	6	0	3	24	546	454	120.3	5	6	0	3	24	833	701	118.8	3	7	1	1	30	1140	896	127.2

### 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	9	3	2	4	16	191	180	106.1	4	7	0	2	28	214	162	132.1	5	4	2	3	20	258	205	125.9	6	5	0	4	20	251	226	111.1
Brisbane Lions	6	6	0	3	24	221	216	102.3	5	6	0	3	24	245	194	126.3	8	5	0	4	20	268	238	112.6	14	2	1	6	10	232	237	97.9
Carlton	4	6	1	2	26	238	219	108.7	9	4	0	5	16	251	213	117.8	13	4	0	5	16	192	245	78.4	13	3	0	6	12	210	261	80.5
Collingwood	11	4	0	5	16	228	226	100.9	2	7	0	2	28	277	182	152.2	6	5	0	4	20	233	193	120.7	7	5	0	4	20	262	258	101.6
Essendon	16	1	0	8	4	138	289	47.8	12	4	0	5	16	236	316	74.7	11	4	0	5	16	267	261	102.3	15	2	0	7	8	166	301	55.1
Fremantle	14	2	0	7	8	204	207	98.6	11	4	0	5	16	213	233	91.4	7	5	0	4	20	230	191	120.4	16	1	0	8	4	166	309	53.7
Geelong	10	4	0	5	16	217	213	101.9	3	7	0	2	28	250	187	133.7	3	6	0	3	24	243	186	130.6	3	6	0	3	24	248	178	139.3
Hawthorn	7	5	0	4	20	217	214	101.4	1	7	0	2	28	247	152	162.5	4	5	0	4	20	306	242	126.4	1	9	0	0	36	316	176	179.5
Kangaroos	1	6	2	1	28	244	159	153.5	15	2	0	7	8	161	272	59.2	1	7	0	2	28	242	207	116.9	12	3	0	6	12	212	220	96.4
Melbourne	15	1	0	8	4	137	263	52.1	16	1	0	8	4	146	294	49.7	16	1	0	8	4	153	309	49.5	10	4	0	5	16	265	286	92.7
Port Adelaide	8	4	1	4	18	265	206	128.6	7	5	0	4	20	248	219	113.2	12	4	0	5	16	214	259	82.6	11	4	0	5	16	194	257	75.5
Richmond	13	3	1	5	14	219	237	92.4	8	4	1	4	18	234	215	108.8	9	5	0	4	20	225	270	83.3	5	5	0	4	20	242	196	123.5
St Kilda	5	6	0	3	24	238	185	128.6	13	2	0	7	8	190	258	73.6	14	3	0	6	12	188	251	74.9	8	5	0	4	20	224	221	101.4
Sydney	2	7	0	2	28	235	172	136.6	10	4	0	5	16	192	177	108.5	2	6	0	3	24	212	147	144.2	4	5	1	3	22	229	185	123.8
West Coast	12	4	0	5	16	178	209	85.2	14	2	0	7	8	161	258	62.4	15	2	2	5	12	173	240	72.1	9	5	0	4	20	187	205	91.2
Western Bulldogs	3	6	1	2	26	263	238	110.5	6	5	1	3	22	283	216	131.0	10	4	0	5	16	287	247	116.2	2	7	0	2	28	307	195	157.4

In breaking Heritage Fund Investor hearts, the Hawks preserved their perfect 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter record this weekend, winning their 9<sup>th</sup> straight final term in toppling the Dees at the G. Fremantle continue to struggle in final terms and now have a 1 and 8 record and a 53.7 percentage.

Melbourne, meantime, in scaring the Hawks on Sunday, have collected their first 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter victories this season, leaving Essendon now with the worst 1<sup>st</sup> quarter record of all teams.

Geelong are building a reputation for being slow starters. They're now 4 and 5 in 1<sup>st</sup> quarters.

The table at right shows the number of total quarters won, drawn and lost for every. The top 8 once again comprises only those teams who have a better than 50% win-loss quarters record. It also comprises the same teams that make up the top 8 of the competition ladder.

Furthermore, a strong correspondence remains between these quarter-by-quarter results and competition performance. The correlation between the points shown here and competition ladder points is +0.931.

	Total Quarters Won				
	R	W	D	L	Pts
Adelaide	5	19	4	13	84
Brisbane Lions	7	19	1	16	78
Carlton	10	17	1	18	70
Collingwood	5	21	0	15	84
Essendon	15	11	0	25	44
Fremantle	14	12	0	24	48
Geelong	2	23	0	13	92
Hawthorn	1	26	0	10	104
Kangaroos	8	18	2	16	76
Melbourne	16	7	0	29	28
Port Adelaide	10	17	1	18	70
Richmond	9	17	2	17	72
St Kilda	12	16	0	20	64
Sydney	4	22	1	13	90
West Coast	13	13	2	21	56
Western Bulldogs	2	22	2	12	92

## Team Ratings Update

Collingwood's shock and thumping win over the Cats earned it a 7½ ratings point increase, propelling it into 5<sup>th</sup> spot on MARS Ratings. West Coast's surprising and similarly comprehensive victory dropped the Crows rating by 5½ points, but Port's loss allowed the Crows to retain 4<sup>th</sup> spot.

In other sizeable ratings points shifts the Lions gained 3.6 points at the expense of the Saints, and the Tigers grabbed 3 points from the Dons.

The Hawks, again, though winning, did so by an insufficiently large margin to preserve their ratings points position. They dropped 0.2 of a point this week.

The table below has the current 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	Δ R7	End R7	Δ R8	End R8	Δ R9	End R9
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	+0.9	1,038.6	+1.1	1,039.7	-7.5	1,032.2
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	-2.5	1,015.5	+4.6	1,020.1	+0.9	1,021.0
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	+5.0	1,020.8	-0.2	1,020.6	-0.2	1,020.4
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	+2.4	1,014.7	+4.2	1,018.8	-5.5	1,013.3
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	-5.0	1,004.7	+0.9	1,005.6	+7.5	1,013.1
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	+4.8	1,008.3	+0.2	1,008.5	-0.9	1,007.7
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	-0.9	1,001.4	+2.4	1,003.8	+3.6	1,007.4
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	+2.5	1,008.1	+0.0	1,008.1	-0.8	1,007.3
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	-2.4	1,000.3	-0.0	1,000.3	+0.8	1,001.1
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	-0.3	998.1	-0.9	997.2	-3.6	993.6
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	-1.6	994.5	+0.0	994.5	-1.4	993.1
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	+0.3	989.5	-1.1	988.4	+3.0	991.4
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	-4.2	984.4	+0.0	984.5	+5.5	990.0
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	+4.2	979.0	-2.4	976.6	+1.4	977.9
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	-4.8	975.4	-4.6	970.8	-3.0	967.8
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	+1.6	966.7	-4.2	962.5	+0.2	962.7

There is now over 6 ratings points between the 8<sup>th</sup>-placed Bulldogs and the 9<sup>th</sup>-placed Roos, and a further 7½ points back to the 10<sup>th</sup>-placed Saints. It appears that the MARS final 8 is sorting itself out and still the only difference between the MARS top 8 and the competition top 8 is that the MARS has Port Adelaide in at the Roos' expense.

Team	Initial	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9
Geelong	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydney	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2
Hawthorn	8	3	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	3
Adelaide	3	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Collingwood	6	7	5	5	5	5	5	7	7	5
Port Adelaide	4	6	7	7	9	7	7	5	5	6
Brisbane Lions	11	10	11	11	8	10	9	8	8	7
Western Bulldogs	13	13	12	10	6	8	6	6	6	8
Kangaroos	10	12	10	12	7	6	8	9	9	9
St Kilda	9	9	6	8	10	9	10	10	10	10
Fremantle	7	8	9	6	12	11	11	11	11	11
Richmond	15	14	14	14	13	13	12	12	12	12
West Coast	5	4	8	9	11	12	13	13	13	13
Carlton	16	16	16	16	15	15	15	14	14	14
Essendon	12	11	13	13	14	14	14	15	15	15
Melbourne	14	15	15	15	16	16	16	16	16	16

The MARS Top 8 is now:

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

A comparison of MARS Ratings with the competition ladder yields four teams whose rankings differ by more than 4 places:

- The Bulldogs, who are 3<sup>rd</sup> on the ladder but 8<sup>th</sup> on MARS
- Carlton, who are 9<sup>th</sup> on the ladder but 14<sup>th</sup> on MARS
- Fremantle, who are 15<sup>th</sup> on the ladder but 11<sup>th</sup> on MARS
- Port Adelaide, who are 12<sup>th</sup> on the ladder but 6<sup>th</sup> on MARS

Some of this discrepancy is undoubtedly a consequence of the fact that, on the MARS System, teams carry across some of their previous-season form and so do not all start equal. Some of it too, though, is because of the varying strength of the teams that each has met and the margins of victory and of defeat.

It's on this latter point that I want to expound in the next section.

## Margins of Victory and Defeat

Most seasons, the difference for many teams between making the finals and missing out depends on how they perform in those close games that are won by just a couple of kicks.

	Losing Margin						Draw	Winning Margin					
	36+	24-35	18-23	12-17	6-11	1-5		0	1-5	6-11	12-17	18-23	24-35
Adelaide	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	2
Brisbane Lions	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Carlton	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Collingwood	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Essendon	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fremantle	1	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Geelong	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	3
Hawthorn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	3
Kangaroos	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	2
Melbourne	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Port Adelaide	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Richmond	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
St Kilda	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sydney	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
West Coast	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Western Bulldogs	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	3
	29	11	5	10	8	7	4	7	8	10	5	11	29

This season, so far, Adelaide, Geelong, the Roos, St Kilda and the Bulldogs have generally had the better of close games, while Collingwood, Fremantle and Port Adelaide have had the worst of it.

Fremantle, in particular, are worth a moment's reflection. They're 1 and 6 in games decided by less than 3 goals, a factor which explains why MARS still has them ranked 11<sup>th</sup>.

Port Adelaide are 0 and 4 in such games, which also explains why they're ranked as highly as 6<sup>th</sup> by MARS.

The Bulldogs are 2½ and 1½ in these games and they've also recorded 2 other victory margins less than 6 goals. This is partly why MARS has them ranked 8<sup>th</sup>.

Carlton, despite having won 4 games, have lost 4 of the 5 they've lost by 4 goals or more. This, coupled with their abysmal form carried across from last season, is why MARS has them ranked 14<sup>th</sup>.

Some other notable features of this table are the following:

- Essendon have lost 6 of the 7 games they've lost by 6 goals or more
- Melbourne have lost 5 of the 8 games they've lost by 6 goals or more
- No team has won more than 3 games by 6 goals or more.
- Hawthorn, although undefeated, have won 5 of their games by 12 to 17 points, and one more by 18 to 23 points; only 3 of their wins have been blowouts.

Over the course of the next week or two I'll take a look at the relative strengths of the schedule that each team has so far faced to see if that will shed more light on the MARS ratings.

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One thing I haven't mentioned for a few weeks is Chi's Mean Absolute Prediction Error. As you'll recall, I'm targetting a sub-30 result. Currently, he's at 29.6 point per game (BKB is at 27.8 points per game and Quila's at 30.0 points per game).

I also haven't updated the situation on the various Monash Competitions. I'll try to get to this next week.

*"Perhaps all pleasure is only relief"*

William S Burroughs

Tony

25 May 2008

Appendix 1 : Cumulative Tipping Performance – All Tipsters

