

Looking at football
from a different
point of view

Fund Prices/Mvmts

Heritage Fund	74.6	▼ 9.9
Alpha Fund	66.4	Stdy
Beta Fund	52.0	Stdy
Chi Fund	63.1	Stdy
Line Fund	103.9	Stdy

Rec'd Fund 71.1 ▼ 3.0

MAFL 2008

14th September
Round SF.1 2008

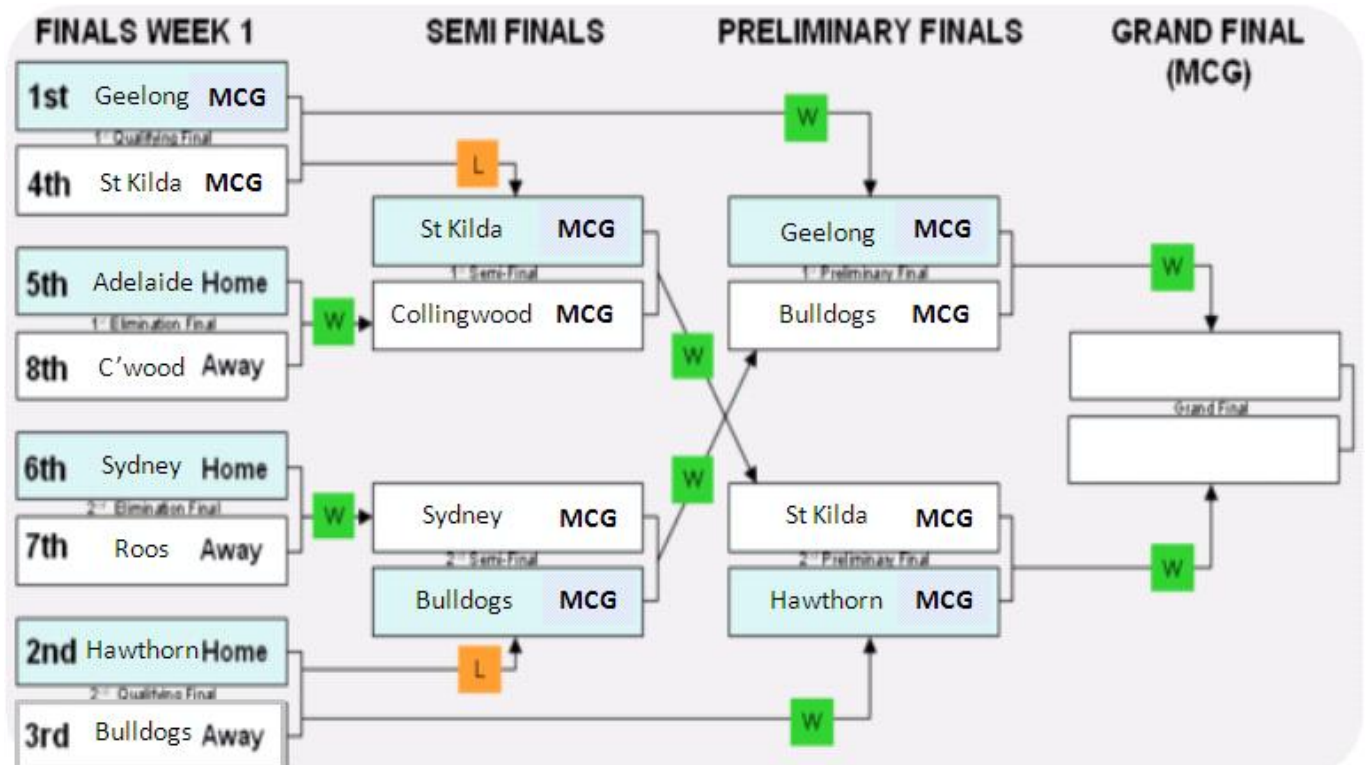
Semi Finals

2nd Semi Final	
5 Correct	W Bulldogs v Sydney (MCG, 12th September 2008)
Sportsbet	\$1.75 \$2.00 50% - 57% 43% - 50% W Bulldogs -6½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)
Heritage	Lost 9.93% (11.75%)
Alpha	-
Beta	-
Chi	-
Line	-
Chi	Western Bulldogs by 21
Quila	Western Bulldogs by 25
Shadow	Western Bulldogs
CTL	Western Bulldogs
MARS	Sydney
Result	W Bulldogs 16.10 (106) def Sydney 9.15 (69)

1st Semi Final	
3 Correct	St Kilda v Collingwood (MCG, 13th September 2008)
Sportsbet	\$2.15 \$1.65 39% - 47% 53% - 61% St Kilda +7½ pts (\$1.90/\$1.90)
Heritage	-
Alpha	-
Beta	-
Chi	-
Line	-
Chi	Collingwood by 2
Quila	St Kilda by 4
Shadow	St Kilda
CTL	St Kilda
MARS	Collingwood
Result	St Kilda 17.4 (106) def Collingwood 9.18 (72)

SF Statistics		
Scoring	Winners	Losers
Goals	33	18
Behinds	14	33
Ave Score	106.0	70.5
Ave Marg	35.5	
Qtrs Won	Winners	Losers
1st	1	1
2nd	2	0
3rd	2	0
4th	1	1
Qtr Leads	Winners	Losers
End of 1st	1	1
End of 2nd	2	0
End 3rd	2	0

Tipping Statistics		
Tipster	This Week	Total
BKB	1	131 (72.0%)
CTL	2	126 (69.2%)
Shadow	2	126 (69.2%)
Chi	1	125 (68.7%)
Quila	2	124 (68.1%)
MARS	0	118 (64.8%)



Results in Review

MAFL Funds

Once again this weekend the Heritage Fund wagered on the wrong upset though, mercifully, not much (additional) damage was done to Investor portfolios. The details are in the table at right.

In losing yet again while carrying Investor Funds on their backs Sydney have managed to navigate an entire season without providing a winning wager, slicing 27c off the Heritage Fund price, 16c off the Alpha Fund price, 20c off the Beta Fund price, 2c off the Chi Fund price, and 16c off the Line Fund price.

For Investors with the Recommended Portfolio, that works out as about 18c off their entire original portfolio. No other single team has lopped more than about 10c off the price of the Recommended Portfolio (Melbourne's managed 10.2c and Essendon 9.9c).

Investor #	Profit/Loss (%)
001	(29.00%)
002	(25.41%)
003	(28.90%)
004	(28.90%)
005	(19.16%)
006	(28.90%)
007	(28.90%)
008	(28.90%)
009	(28.90%)
012	(28.90%)
013	(28.90%)
014	(28.90%)
015	(40.84%)
016	(28.90%)

Team Ratings Update

Similar victory margins in this week's matches produced similar ratings point adjustments for the two winners and for the two losers, dropping Sydney to 5th and Collingwood to 6th on the MARS table, and elevating the Bulldogs to 3rd and St Kilda to 4th.

Sydney's final rating of 1,012.3 is quite low for a team finishing 5th (see the table below), and would be extraordinarily low for a team finishing 3rd, which is where Sydney could wind up if the Dogs lose by 51 points or more and the Saints lose by 27 points or more next weekend.

Collingwood's rating of 1,010.9 is, however, close to the average for a team finishing 6th. The Dogs would need to lose by 70 points or more and the Saints by 43 points or more in order for them to fall below the Pies' final MARS rating.

Team	Initial	End R22	Δ Wk1	Δ Wk2	End Wk2	Season Δ
Geelong	1,027.4	1,065.8	+3.0	-	1,068.8	+41.4
Hawthorn	1,002.9	1,033.5	+3.5	-	1,037.0	+34.0
Western Bulldogs	988.4	1,014.6	-3.5	+3.6	1,014.6	+26.2
St Kilda	1,001.0	1,013.3	-3.0	+3.3	1,013.6	+12.5
Sydney	1,010.7	1,013.4	+2.5	-3.6	1,012.3	+1.6
Collingwood	1,004.0	1,011.1	+3.2	-3.3	1,010.9	+6.9
Adelaide	1,008.4	1,012.3	-3.2	-	1,009.2	+0.8
Kangaroos	1,000.7	1,000.0	-2.5	-	997.6	-3.1
Port Adelaide	1,007.4	998.3	-	-	998.3	-9.1
Fremantle	1,004.0	995.1	-	-	995.1	-8.9
Brisbane Lions	999.6	992.6	-	-	992.6	-7.0
Richmond	986.3	992.1	-	-	992.1	+5.8
Carlton	975.2	982.8	-	-	982.8	+7.5
Essendon	990.0	971.3	-	-	971.3	-18.7
West Coast	1,006.6	959.2	-	-	959.2	-47.4
Melbourne	987.2	944.7	-	-	944.7	-42.5

Final Ratings Points of All Finalists: 2000-2008

Position	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Team	Rating	Team	Rating	Team	Rating	Team	Rating	Team	Rating
1st	Essendon	1,072.7	Brisbane Lions	1,049.4	Brisbane Lions	1,056.2	Brisbane Lions	1,045.8	Port Adelaide	1,047.2
2nd	Melbourne	1,020.6	Essendon	1,049.5	Collingwood	1,009.4	Collingwood	1,030.2	Brisbane Lions	1,044.0
3rd	Carlton	1,042.4	Richmond	1,008.4	Port Adelaide	1,030.9	Sydney	1,017.6	St Kilda	1,022.1
4th	Kangaroos	1,005.8	Hawthorn	1,008.4	Adelaide	1,012.4	Port Adelaide	1,031.4	Geelong	1,018.4
5th	Brisbane Lions	1,026.9	Port Adelaide	1,022.6	Essendon	1,013.1	Adelaide	1,022.1	Sydney	1,012.5
6th	Hawthorn	1,000.7	Carlton	1,037.9	Melbourne	998.7	Essendon	1,019.9	Essendon	1,007.5
7th	Geelong	991.6	Sydney	1,009.2	Kangaroos	994.9	Fremantle	996.2	Melbourne	1,000.7
8th	Western Bulldogs	1,005.9	Adelaide	998.7	West Coast	985.5	West Coast	1,006.0	West Coast	1,009.9

Position	2005		2006		2007		2008		2000-08 Average
	Team	Rating	Team	Rating	Team	Rating	Team	Rating	
1st	Sydney	1,028.1	West Coast	1,033.7	Geelong	1,058.3			1,048.9
2nd	West Coast	1,023.0	Sydney	1,032.8	Port Adelaide	1,015.7			1,028.1
3rd	St Kilda	1,035.9	Adelaide	1,038.6	Kangaroos	1,001.5			1,024.0
4th	Adelaide	1,034.8	Fremantle	1,016.6	Collingwood	1,008.5			1,017.0
5th	Geelong	1,017.7	Melbourne	1,009.5	West Coast	1,014.0	Sydney	1,012.3	1,016.7
6th	Port Adelaide	1,011.9	Western Bulldogs	1,002.5	Hawthorn	1,006.2	Collingwood	1,010.9	1,010.7
7th	Kangaroos	994.1	Collingwood	1,007.9	Sydney	1,022.8	Adelaide	1,009.2	1,002.9
8th	Melbourne	988.3	St Kilda	1,022.0	Adelaide	1,017.9	Kangaroos	997.6	1,003.5

While I'm talking about MARS, I'd like to share a piece of analysis showing that its ability to predict generally improves as the season progresses.

The table below shows, as you move across the columns:

- the number of correct predictions that MARS made in the relevant round of each season
- (column headed Ave %) MARS' average predictive accuracy, colour-coded so that better performances are more green and poorer performances tend to red
- (column headed Ave Surp) the average bits of surprisal associated with games in each round, excluding draws, colour-coded so that less surprising rounds are more green and more surprising rounds tend to red
- (column headed Grp Ave %) MARS' average tipping performance for a particular group of rounds
- (rightmost column headed 2008) MARS' performance in 2008.

MARS Predictions

Round	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ave %	Ave Surp	Grp Ave %	2008
1	3	4	5	4	7	6	5	3	4	5	57.5%	0.94		
2	2	5	6	6	3	4	4	5	5	7	58.8%	0.94		
3	4	5.5	4	5	4.5	8	4	5	6	6	65.0%	0.95		
4	4	6	4	7	5	3	4.5	5	4	5	59.4%	1.01		
5	6	4	7	4.5	3	5	3	5	5	4.5	58.8%	0.90	59.9%	69%
6	6	5	6	6	5	3	6	5	5	7.5	68.1%	0.85		
7	2	5	6	6	3	5	6	4	6	5	60.0%	0.94		
8	4	5	5	4	8	3	2	5	6	8	62.5%	0.89		
9	7	6	6	6	6	4	4	6	7	4	70.0%	0.89		
10	4	5.5	4	3	6	7	5	7	3.5	7	65.0%	0.89		
11	5.5	6	4	5	5.5	5	6	6	4	7	67.5%	0.93	65.5%	80%
12	5	7	7	4	4	5	8	4	3	4	63.8%	0.90		
13	6	3	5	7	7	6	5	6	6	4	68.8%	0.89		
14	6	5	5	5.5	6	4	6	6	7	3	66.9%	0.90		
15	4	5	6	5	7	6	7	7	5	6	72.5%	0.78		
16	5	8	7	3	4	5	7	4.5	5	5	66.9%	0.82	67.8%	55%
17	7	6	4	6	8	8	6	5	5	2	71.3%	0.83		
18	4	5	5	5	6	5	4	5	6.5	6	64.4%	0.87		
19	6	7	6	7	4	3	7	4	6	5	68.8%	0.96		
20	6	6	5	5	5.5	6	4	4	6.5	4	65.0%	0.80		
21	8	4	8	6	7	4	5	4.5	5	4	69.4%	0.89		
22	5	5	3	5	6	7	8	7	8	6	75.0%	0.83	69.0%	56%
QFEF	3	3	3	3	2	4	4	1	2	3	70.0%	0.91		
SF	1	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	65.0%	0.95		
PF	0	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	2		66.7%	0.74		
GF	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1		77.8%	0.81	69.0%	50%

The *Grp Ave %* column best illustrates the general improvement in predictive accuracy that MARS has produced across the seasons. Whilst some of this can be attributed to the fact that seasons have generally become more predictable as they've progressed – as demonstrated by the tendency to greener values as we progress down the *Ave Surp* column – not all of the improvement can be so attributed. The correlation between the *Ave %* and *Ave Surp* columns is -0.54, meaning that only about 25% of the variability in one can be explained by variability in the other.

Put simply, MARS seems to get smarter as the season progresses.

Not so this season, however, as you can see by inspecting the final column of the table, which suggests that MARS has become progressively less predictive as the current season has unfolded.

One other way of demonstrating this is to look at how a gambler would have fared had he or she level-staked on MARS predictions across, firstly, seasons 1999 to 2007 and then again across season 2008.

The relevant information is in the table at right and shows that wagering on MARS' predictions for games in the 2nd half of the season would have been modestly profitable across seasons 1999 to 2007, but devastatingly unprofitable in season 2008.

MARS Returns for Level Staking

Rounds	1999-2007	2008
1-5	(6.15%)	4.64%
6-11	(4.29%)	9.90%
12-16	0.96%	(26.38%)
17-22	0.11%	(24.15%)
Finals	2.85%	(31.33%)
Total	(1.87%)	(9.57%)

Here's an update of the table showing how teams finishing in various ladder positions have ultimately fared in the finals series since 2000.

Season	Rank	Team	QF1	SF1	PF1	GF
Season 2000						
1st	Essendon	QF1	-	PF1	GF	
2nd	Carlton	QF2	SF2	PF1	GF	
3rd	Melbourne	QF2	-	PF2	GF	
4th	Kangaroos	QF1	SF1	PF2		
5th	Geelong	EF1				
6th	Brisbane	EF2	SF2			
7th	Bulldogs	EF2				
8th	Hawthorn	EF1	SF1			
Season 2001						
1st	Essendon	QF1	-	PF1	GF	
2nd	Brisbane	QF2	-	PF2	GF	
3rd	Pt Adelaide	QF2	SF2			
4th	Richmond	QF1	SF1	PF2		
5th	Carlton	EF1	SF1			
6th	Hawthorn	EF2	SF2	PF1		
7th	Sydney	EF2				
8th	Adelaide	EF1				
Season 2002						
1st	Pt Adelaide	QF1	SF1	PF2		
2nd	Brisbane	QF2	-	PF2	GF	
3rd	Adelaide	QF2	SF2	PF1		
4th	Collingwood	QF1	-	PF1	GF	
5th	Essendon	EF1	SF1			
6th	Melbourne	EF2	SF2			
7th	Kangaroos	EF2				
8th	West Coast	EF1				
Season 2003						
1st	Pt Adelaide	QF1	SF1	PF2		
2nd	Collingwood	QF2	-	PF2	GF	
3rd	Brisbane	QF2	SF2	PF1	GF	
4th	Sydney	QF1	-	PF1		
5th	Fremantle	EF1				
6th	Adelaide	EF2	SF2			
7th	West Coast	EF2				
8th	Essendon	EF1	SF1			
Season 2004						
1st	Pt Adelaide	QF1	-	PF1	GF	
2nd	Brisbane	QF2	-	PF2	GF	
3rd	St Kilda	QF2	SF1	PF1		
4th	Geelong	QF1	SF2	PF2		
5th	Melbourne	EF1				
6th	Sydney	EF2	SF1			
7th	West Coast	EF2				
8th	Essendon	EF1	SF2			
Season 2005						
1st	Adelaide	QF1	SF1	PF2		
2nd	West Coast	QF2	-	PF2	GF	
3rd	Sydney	QF2	SF2	PF1	GF	
4th	St Kilda	QF1	-	PF1		
5th	Kangaroos	EF1				
6th	Geelong	EF2	SF2			
7th	Melbourne	EF2				
8th	Pt Adelaide	EF1	SF1			
Season 2006						
1st	West Coast	QF1	SF1	PF2	GF	
2nd	Adelaide	QF2	-	PF2		
3rd	Fremantle	QF2	SF2	PF1		
4th	Sydney	QF1	-	PF1	GF	
5th	Collingwood	EF1				
6th	St Kilda	EF2				
7th	Melbourne	EF2	SF2			
8th	Bulldogs	EF1	SF1			
Season 2007						
1st	Geelong	QF1	-	PF1	GF	
2nd	Pt Adelaide	QF2	-	PF2	GF	
3rd	West Coast	QF2	SF2			
4th	Kangaroos	QF1	SF1	PF2		
5th	Hawthorn	EF1	SF1			
6th	Collingwood	EF2	SF2	PF1		
7th	Sydney	EF2				
8th	Adelaide	EF1				
Season 2008						
1st	Geelong	QF1	-			
2nd	Hawthorn	QF2	-			
3rd	W Bulldogs	QF2	SF2			
4th	St Kilda	QF1	SF1			
5th	Adelaide	EF1				
6th	Sydney	EF2	SF2			
7th	Kangaroos	EF2				
8th	Collingwood	EF1	SF1			

Legend
 Winning Team
 Losing Team

Semi Finals have, traditionally, been where teams from the upper half of the Top 8 have asserted their dominance over teams from the lower half. As summarised in the table below teams finishing 1st through 4th have now won 16 of the 18 Semi Final contests, the only losses being recorded by two 3rd-place finishers – Port Adelaide in 2001 and West Coast in 2007 – both losing to 6th-placed teams.

This dominance of the top four teams has meant that the Prelim Finals have involved them in all but the two years noted above (2001 and 2007).

Results in Semi-Finals

Team Finishing	Versus Team Finishing								Total	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th		
1st					1-0			3-0	4-0	16-2
2nd						1-0			1-0	
3rd						5-2	1-0		6-2	
4th					2-0			3-0	5-0	
5th	0-1			0-2					0-3	
6th		0-1	2-5						2-6	
7th			0-1						0-1	
8th	0-3			0-3					0-6	

In this respect, the Prelim Finals for season 2008 look much like many of those from seasons past. What is a bit different, however, is that next week sees 1st play 3rd and 2nd play 4th, which is a configuration we've seen only once before in the Prelim Finals. On the 5 other occasions where only the top 4 have been involved in the Prelims we've had the much less satisfactory pairings of 1st v 2nd and 3rd v 4th, a situation that arises when either the 1st- or 2nd-placed team loses in week 1 of the finals.

'til Thursday

Tony

14 September 2008