

## Weekly wrap up

Friday, 5 June 2009						Home	Away	
7.40pm		Collingwood	vs.		Essendon	M.C.G.	\$1.47	\$2.60
Saturday, 6 June 2009								
2.10pm		Melbourne	vs.		West Coast	M.C.G.	\$2.10	\$1.70
2.40pm		Port Adelaide	vs.		Brisbane Lions	AAMI Stadium	\$2.40	\$1.55
7.10pm		Richmond	vs.		Adelaide	Gold Coast Stad.	\$3.80	\$1.25
7.10pm		Western Bulldogs	vs.		Hawthorn	Etihad Stadium	\$1.40	\$2.85
Sunday, 7 June 2009								
1.10pm		Sydney	vs.		Kangaroos	S.C.G.	\$1.30	\$3.40
3.10pm		St. Kilda	vs.		Geelong	Etihad Stadium	\$2.40	\$1.55
2.40pm		Fremantle	vs.		Carlton	Subiaco Oval	\$2.40	\$1.55



AFL fans witnessed a thriller last night and I don't mean Michael Jackson emerging from the grave as a moonwalking zombie. I am instead talking about the much hyped Saints vs Geelong clash that lived up to all expectations and attracted 54,444 to Etihad Stadium, the biggest crowd ever at Etihad Stadium<sup>1</sup>.

This is the first time in AFL history that 2 undefeated sides have met so late in the season. The previous record was in Round 8, 1991 when Essendon and West Coast played off with 7 wins and 1 bye apiece. In fact, there have only been 5 previous occasions where a team began a season with 13 consecutive wins: Collingwood (1929), Geelong (1953), Melbourne (1956), West Coast (1991) and Essendon (2000) and in every one of these cases, that team reached the Grand Final. Does this omen suggest that we have just witnessed a pre-cursor to the 2009 Grand Final?

This match had so much build up that Sportsbet opened betting way back in Round 8 with Geelong remaining the firm favourites ever since. This pricing intrigued me, so I decided to dust off my ultra-powerful and infallible Excel tipping spreadsheet. After calibrating it with the previous 13 rounds of data it estimated the following relative team strengths:

Team	"Home"	Home performance		Away performance	
		Mean	St.dev	Mean	St.dev
 Adelaide	Adelaide	97.14	23.06	92.86	19.42
 Brisbane Lions	Brisbane	102.00	5.00	88.59	5.00
 Carlton	Melbourne	109.20	5.00	84.41	18.06
 Collingwood	Melbourne	101.21	29.09	114.73	5.00
 Essendon	Melbourne	104.81	35.32	58.95	5.00
 Fremantle	Perth	93.43	5.00	66.31	15.66
 Geelong	Geelong	135.06	24.71	<b>110.61</b>	<b>5.00</b>
 Hawthorn	Melbourne	96.74	11.84	77.29	22.64
 Melbourne	Melbourne	71.09	15.19	60.03	5.00
 North Melbourne	Melbourne	65.33	5.00	59.88	15.77
 Port Adelaide	Adelaide	100.55	5.00	69.54	29.11
 Richmond	Melbourne	58.76	23.29	95.94	5.00
 St. Kilda	Melbourne	<b>123.90</b>	<b>21.74</b>	134.25	27.77
 Sydney	Sydney	107.46	11.48	75.43	5.00
 West Coast	Perth	87.69	5.00	72.48	19.32
 Western Bulldogs	Melbourne	89.07	16.64	119.95	38.17

Meaning, that it predicted St Kilda had a 75% chance of winning!

<sup>1</sup> Although "Colonial Stadium" once attracted 56,605 rugby union fans to see the Wallabies trounce the Lions and "Telstra Dome" once accommodated 55,436 soccer hooligans as they witnessed the A-League grand final between Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United.

At the other end of the spectrum is Richmond. While not the lowest placed team they seem to be the laughing stock of the 2009 season at the moment; a moniker that isn't helped when their banner is so tragically bad:



*"We've got a coach, we've got a skipper  
We've got a team that moves like a...zipper?"*

Their game day performance was even more comical with a kick by Daniel Jackson connecting squarely with a team-mate's face, ala Australia's Funniest Home Videos:



*Kick...*



*...that's the ball freeze framed  
right in front of his face...*

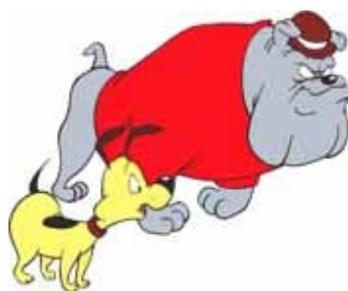


*...and BOOM!  
Hilarity ensues*

Two tippers achieve 7 out of 8 correct tips this week: Hugh, missing only Port Adelaide and Patrick, missing only St Kilda. Since both these teams had equal odds each set of tips amounted to \$11.47 of winnings resulting in a split weekly prize, though Hugh did manage to claw back the overall lead from Jesse.

## Fun & Games

As this round is all about St Kilda vs Geelong:



*Fraser "Spike the Bulldog" Gehrige and Stephen "Chester the Terrior" Milne from last year*



*Geelong's Matthew Stokes and Kosta Tszuyu*