

Weekly wrap up

Friday, 18 June 2010

						Home	Away
7.40pm	 Hawthorn	vs.	 Essendon	M.C.G.		\$1.52	\$2.50

Saturday, 19 June 2010

7.10pm	 Carlton	vs.	 Fremantle	Etihad Stadium		\$1.65	\$2.15
7.10pm	 Brisbane	vs.	 Richmond	Gabba		\$1.40	\$2.80
11.30pm	 Ghana	vs.	 Australia	Royal Bafokeng Stadium			

Sunday, 20 June 2010

1.10pm	 North Melbourne	vs.	 Port Adelaide	Etihad Stadium		\$1.36	\$3.00
4.40pm	 West Coast	vs.	 Western Bulldogs	Subiaco Oval		\$3.00	\$1.36

Australians love to bet on the underdog, well now's our chance. Here are the current Sportsbet odds for Australia to qualify for the World Cup finals:

Group D To Qualify

	TO QUALIFY
Germany	1.25
Serbia	1.50
Ghana	1.73
Australia	11.00

Here's some analysis for those who find soccer interesting (or alternatively for those who can't find a modicum of importance or consequence in a game where the intent seems to be to fall over more often than your opponent, but who enjoy the mathematics; guess which category I fall into...)

Based on some simulations: if all Group D teams are considered equal, Australia have a 12.5% chance of qualifying. If the past two matches are any sort of indication of Australia's relative strength however, this probability drops to 1.5%.

Depending on the results of next week's Group D matches, the following teams will qualify:

	Ghana	Draw	Germany
Australia	Ghana Australia	Ghana One of Germany or Australia	Germany One of Ghana or Australia
Draw	Ghana Serbia	Ghana Germany	Germany One of Ghana or Serbia
Serbia	Ghana Serbia	Serbia Ghana	Germany Serbia

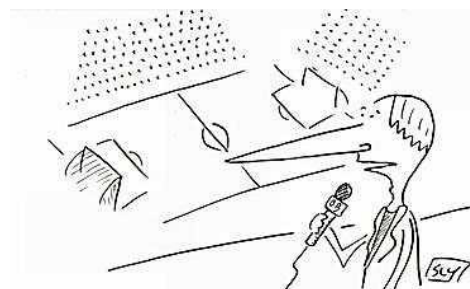
Elaborating on the above table, for Australia to qualify they must win their match against Serbia. If Ghana then defeat Germany, we're through. Alternatively, if Germany thrashes Ghana we also qualify (and by "thrash", I mean that Australia and Germany need to collectively outscore Ghana and Serbia by 6 or more goals).

But there is also a third option that people seems to get overlooked: Even if Ghana and Germany draw, Australia qualify if they beat Serbia by 8 goals or more!! What? Too hopeful?

Personally I'm waiting for the following results: Australia 1 – Serbia 0 and Germany 4 – Ghana 0 because if that happens, there would be nothing to split Ghana and Australia¹ and FIFA draws lots to decide who progresses. I wonder if Sportsbet would offer an option to bet on the result of a FIFA-drawn lot?

Result after Australia 1 – Serbia 0 and Germany 4 – Ghana 0:

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
 Germany	3	2	0	1	8	1	+7	6
 Ghana	3	1	1	1	2	5	-3	4
 Australia	3	1	1	1	2	5	-3	4
 Serbia	3	1	0	2	1	2	-1	3



"And if the scores remain level, you can text the name of the team you want to keep in the tournament."

¹ Official criteria for ranking is: points, goal difference, goals scored, points between tied teams, goal difference between tied teams, goals scored between tied teams, then drawing of lots

Phutbol lookalikes



Be afraid...they're already here



Pim Verbeek looking just as furrowed as Gordon Ramsay



Mesa tink Jar-Jar Binks be lookie lot liken Mister Ronaldinho, yah?



The elegance and grace of soccer dives