

Weekly wrap up

Friday, 23 July 2010

					Home	Away
7.40pm	 Essendon	vs.	 St. Kilda	Etihad Stadium	\$4.65	\$1.17

Saturday, 24 July 2010

2.10pm	 Collingwood	vs.	 Carlton	M.C.G.	\$1.15	\$5.00
3.10pm	 Port Adelaide	vs.	 Hawthorn	AAMI Stadium	\$3.15	\$1.33
7:10pm	 Sydney	vs.	 Geelong	ANZ Stadium	\$4.20	\$1.20
7:10pm	 Brisbane	vs.	 Melbourne	Gabba	\$1.75	\$2.00

Sunday, 25 July 2010

1.10pm	 Richmond	vs.	 Adelaide	M.C.G.	\$2.15	\$1.65
2.10pm	 Western Bulldogs	vs.	 North Melbourne	Etihad Stadium	\$1.15	\$5.00
4.40pm	 Fremantle	vs.	 West Coast	Subiaco Oval	\$1.35	\$3.05

Pop quiz: How many different names has Etihad Stadium had?

If you said "Four: Docklands Stadium, Colonial Stadium, Telstra Dome and Etihad Stadium", you'd be wrong. Even if you said "Five: because it was called originally called Victoria Stadium" you'd still be wrong, because it has had another name:

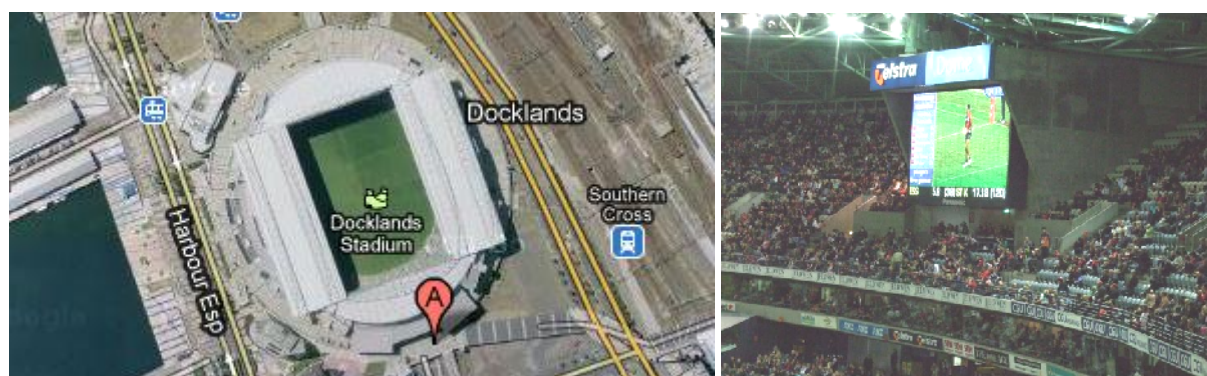


Though you probably can't make it out from the low res images above, in scenes from *Ghost Rider*, Telstra Dome's name was digitally changed to SoBe Dome

The stadium became known as *Telstra Dome* on 1 October 2002 after Telstra paid \$50m for naming rights. But \$50m doesn't buy as much as it used to and due to rival telecommunication company sponsors in many clubs the stadium was more often just referred to as *The Dome* **face palm**¹

On 1 March 2009, naming rights transferred to Etihad Airways for an estimate \$5m-\$8m per year. You'd think that Etihad would have learnt from Telstra's mistake. Instead they just made a larger one by failing to realise that the whole AFL is sponsored by Qantas and so the entire league initially refused to recognise the name in any form. **double face palm**²

Whatever you call it, Etidockstranial Stadium has had its fair share of controversy, much of it arising from AFL fans and clubs. The reason is pretty clear to me: the stadium was not constructed with AFL in mind. The ground has a very irregular North-South orientation and the rectangular open roof space means that areas of AFL surface do not receive sufficient sunlight. There is also the ludicrous placement of the coaching boxes and LCD screens that obscure portions of view.



¹ <http://img.chan4chan.com/img/2009-03-17/1237316728814.jpg>

² http://cdn0.sbnation.com/imported_assets/237580/double-facepalm.jpg

I can hear the possible conversation playing out:

But that is preposterous. Surely Docklands Stadium should have been constructed to accommodate the greatest crowd puller in Melbourne, which is clearly AFL...

Actually, the greatest ever attendance at Docklands Stadium was a Catholic Jubilee Mass with about 70,000 people and the Robbie Williams Close Encounters tour with 64,619 people.

OK. But I'm talking sports, not concerts...

Oh. In that case then the greatest attendance would be the 56,700 at the WWE – Global Warning tour.

Yeah, but I'm talking about football, not sporting events that are played out by actors...

That would make it the A-League 2007 Grand Final of Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United with 55,436.

Yeah, but I'm talking about football, not sporting events that are played out by actors...

Rugby Union (56,605 at the 2001 British Lions tour to Australia, second test). After that, Rugby League (54,833 at the 2006 State of Origin - Game III.

...OK. So how about we ignore concerts, soccer, rugby, cricket and fictional motorcycle jumps over six helicopters for Melbourne based movies starring Nicholas Cage...

Oh, in that case, AFL is clearly the greatest crowd puller with 54,444 attending St Kilda v Geelong in 2009.

Q.E.D.

Phooty lookalikes

If Johnny Blaze's head bursts into flames when he becomes Ghost Rider, why isn't all his hair burned off?



Gary Ablett and Sonny (technically "rogue NS-5 model robot" but "Sonny" sounds better) from I, Robot



Nathan Eagleton and Dr. Evil from Austin Powers