

Weekly wrap up

Friday, 8 May 2009						Home	Away
7.40pm		Essendon	vs.		Hawthorn	Etihad Stadium	\$5.50 \$1.33
Saturday, 9 May 2009							
2.10pm		Geelong	vs.		Sydney	Skilled Stadium	\$1.08 \$7.00
2.10pm		Richmond	vs.		Brisbane Lions	M.C.G.	\$2.00 \$1.75
7.10pm		Kangaroos	vs.		Port Adelaide	Etihad Stadium	\$2.90 \$1.38
7.10pm		Carlton	vs.		Fremantle	Gold Coast	\$1.25 \$3.75
Sunday, 10 May 2009							
12.40pm		Adelaide	vs.		Western Bulldogs	AAMI Stadium	\$1.95 \$1.80
2.40pm		West Coast	vs.		Melbourne	Subiaco Stadium	\$1.18 \$4.50
Monday, 11 May 2009							
7.20pm		Collingwood	vs.		St. Kilda	Etihad Stadium	\$2.70 \$1.42

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"

- George Santayana

Pertinent words for AFL organisers, who have again attempted to bring AFL football to Melbourne on a Monday night. This is first Monday night game in three years (and apparently the 14th time in the history of the VFL/AFL). Once again, the AFL have shown that they put television rights ahead of footballers and football fans with families, young barrackers and rural fans effectively barred from attending due to late commutes home after the final siren. Having said that Collingwood got hammered, so I'm happy.

And speaking of corporate greed, Etihad stadium continues to come under scrutiny for its crippling financial deals with AFL clubs. On Saturday, North Melbourne hosted an interstate home match at Etihad Stadium drawing only 14,342 fans. Due to contractual obligations with Etihad Stadium this low turnout actually meant that the match *cost the Kangaroos \$140,000!*

To put these matters in perspective, North's arrangement with Etihad Stadium requires a 30,000 attendance in order for the club to break-even on gate receipts. After it paid the stadium and the AFL for match-day costs, North made just \$330 in its home game against Richmond in Round 5 and this is on a gross return on the gate for that match of about \$340,000!



Upsets in other matches this round caused the "Underdogs" index to once again outperforming "Favourites" with the ensuing volatile tipping results acting to shortened the leaders' gap significantly. In a round where most tippers managed only 3 correct tips, risk-taker Hilda got only 4 out of 8 correct tips, but this was enough to beat everyone this round, even Leanne who had 5 correct tips (not all favourites) and Hugh who had an impressive 6 out of 8.

Fun & Games

2009 AFL fixture

Inspired by my mother's incessant wailing that "the AFL is ruining football" and her unwavering belief that Collingwood have the easiest draw, I have decided to undertake a multi-part investigation into the 2009 AFL Home & Away fixture.

Each week will deal with various aspects of evaluating the fairness of the 2009 draw, and this week I examine the equality of rest periods. Below is a table of the number of rest days between rounds for each club. Long rest periods (9 days or more) are shown in green and short rest periods (6 days or less) are shown in orange.

Team																
Round 1	6	7	9	7	7	7	8	8	6	7	7	9	6	7	8	7
Round 2	9	7	7	5	6	7	5	8	8	7	7	9	8	7	6	8
Round 3	6	6	7	8	8	6	9	6	7	7	6	6	7	7	8	6
Round 4	8	9	8	8	6	7	8	7	7	6	6	6	6	7	6	7
Round 5	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	6	8	8	9	8	7	7
Round 6	8	7	7	10	6	7	6	6	7	8	7	6	8	6	8	7
Round 7	6	7	8	6	9	6	7	7	6	7	8	8	6	7	6	6
Round 8	7	8	6	6	6	8	6	9	8	7	7	6	7	8	7	6
Round 9	8	6	6	8	8	7	9	7	6	7	7	7	6	6	6	8
Round 10	7	7	8	8	7	7	7	7	9	7	6	6	7	8	9	6
Round 11	7	8	6	12	12	15	14	7	11	8	7	8	6	13	6	8
Round 12	13	13	14	7	7	6	7	13	8	14	15	15	16	7	14	15
Round 13	7	7	9	6	7	8	7	7	7	6	6	7	8	7	6	6
Round 14	7	7	6	7	8	6	6	8	8	7	8	7	7	6	8	6
Round 15	8	7	7	8	6	7	7	6	6	7	7	8	7	7	7	7
Round 16	7	7	6	6	9	7	7	7	8	6	7	7	6	8	6	8
Round 17	6	7	7	8	7	7	7	8	7	6	7	7	7	6	8	7
Round 18	7	7	7	7	6	8	6	6	7	9	7	7	7	8	6	7
Round 19	6	7	9	7	8	7	8	6	7	6	7	6	8	6	7	7
Round 20	8	7	6	8	7	7	6	8	6	8	6	7	7	8	7	6
Round 21	7	7	7	7	6	6	8	7	8	6	7	6	7	6	6	9

- Some features:
- Collingwood has the longest non-split round rest (10 day) and shares the shortest with Geelong (5 days)
 - Melbourne have an unusually short split round rest period (11 days) and St Kilda have an unusually long one (16 days) each of these are offset by the preceding rounds

In terms of a quantitative assessment of which team has the "best" and "worst" fixture, average length of rest period is useless as it simply summarises total days between Round 1 and Round 22 matches. I have instead used a metric based on the standard deviation of each team's rolling 3 round average. My reasoning is as follows:

- A desirable fixture is one with evenly interspersed long and short rest periods. Such a fixture would have a very smooth rolling average
- An undesirable fixture is one with clumps of short rest periods. Such a fixture would have an undulating rolling average

I have also reduced each team's split round rest period by half a week to lessen its dominance on this rolling average

																
Metric	0.43	0.43	0.63	0.41	0.37	0.60	0.66	0.46	0.39	0.64	0.60	0.67	0.72	0.43	0.58	0.62
Rank	6	5	12	3	1	10	14	7	2	13	9	15	16	4	8	11

- My conclusions, with regard to rest periods:
- Essendon has the best fixture (with very regular interspersed of rests and a short split round) though if the split round dominance was lessened further, Brisbane would have the best fixture (with their abundance of perfect 7-day rests)
 - St Kilda & Richmond have the worst fixtures (due to long split rounds and concentrations of short rests in early rounds)

Phooty lookalikes



Max Rooke in flight during Round 7