

## Weekly wrap up

### Friday, 9 July 2010

|        |                                                                                   |               |     |                                                                                   |             | Home         | Away          |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 8.40pm |  | Port Adelaide | vs. |  | Collingwood | AAMI Stadium | \$5.00 \$1.15 |

### Saturday, 10 July 2010

|        |                                                                                   |            |     |                                                                                   |           |                |               |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| 2.10pm |  | Geelong    | vs. |  | Hawthorn  | M.C.G.         | \$1.33 \$3.15 |
| 3.10pm |  | West Coast | vs. |  | Adelaide  | Subiaco Oval   | \$2.65 \$1.43 |
| 7.10pm |  | Brisbane   | vs. |  | St. Kilda | Gabba          | \$4.00 \$1.22 |
| 7.10pm |  | Richmond   | vs. |  | Fremantle | Etihad Stadium | \$2.50 \$1.50 |

### Sunday, 11 July 2010

|        |                                                                                   |           |     |                                                                                   |                  |                |               |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.10pm |  | Sydney    | vs. |  | North Melbourne  | S.C.G.         | \$1.40 \$2.80 |
| 2.10pm |  | Melbourne | vs. |  | Essendon         | M.C.G.         | \$1.80 \$1.90 |
| 4.40pm |  | Carlton   | vs. |  | Western Bulldogs | Etihad Stadium | \$2.50 \$1.50 |

Unlike his namesake in the footy tipping competition, Paul the Oracle Octopus has had a remarkably good run at tipping winners. This little cephalopod was hatched in 2008 in England before being relocated to the Sea Life Aquarium in Oberhausen, Germany and has reached worldwide acclaim after successfully predicting all seven of Germany's World Cup matches as well as the result of the World Cup Final (which was Spain by the way, but who really cares?)

Had his gambling colleague, George the jellyfish, put \$10 down at the start and reinvested the winnings each time the octopus made a selection, he'd be \$6,406 richer by now.

But if soccer tipping octopuses<sup>1</sup> aren't gross enough for you, how about a World Cup predicting parasite? *Toxoplasma gondii* is a parasite found in almost all mammals. The overall goal of the parasite is to end up in a feline stomach which is the only place it can reproduce. In other mammals, humans for example, the parasite heads for the brain and it is estimated that almost a third of the human population has a latent *Toxo* infection.

The uncanny correlation: all eight knock-out matches in 2010 were won by teams whose countries had higher rates of *Toxo* infection. In fact, if you rank the top 25 FIFA team countries by *Toxo* rate, you get in order from the top: Brazil (67 percent), Argentina (52 percent), France (45 percent), Spain (44 percent), and Germany (43 percent). Collectively, these are the teams responsible for eleven of the last 14 World Cup winners.

Fortunately, here in Australia, we don't have to worry about such dangerous things as World Cup victories.

Anyway, time to chuck another octopus on the barbie coz the World Cup is finally over.



*Release the Kraken*

<sup>1</sup> The plural of octopus is *not* octopi as the term is Greek in origin, not Latin. Technically speaking, the word is a Latinisation of the Greek third-declension masculine oktōpous, which has the plural oktōpodes, therefore the proper plural is *octopodes* though *octopuses* is an accepted plural in English.

# Fun and Games

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## Phooty lookalikes

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A tribute to the hirsute specimens of the AFL:



*Chance Bateman and the Uruk-hai (also known as orcs) from Lord of the Rings*



*Richmond debutant Ben Nason and the albino Twins from The Matrix.  
Not sure which one he looks more like...*



*Hawthorn president Jeff Kennett and Chewbacca*