

OUR TOP TIPSTERS



KJ/Herald Sun 3/8/07

Age		Average score	
61-70	78.5	21-30	75.1
51-60	78	11-20	70.8
41-50	77	0-10	72.7
31-40	76.4		

Occupation		Average score
Retiree		78
Accounting/Tax professional		77
Administration/Office support		77
Self-employed/Small business		77
Teacher/Academic		77
Engineer		77
Financial analyst/Banker		77
Healthcare worker and medical professionals		77
Real estate/property agents		76
HR/Recruitment professional		76

Team supported		Average score
Geelong		79
Hawthorn		78
Kangaroos		78
Essendon		78
Adelaide		77
Port Adelaide		77
Collingwood		77
West Coast Eagles		76
Western Bulldogs		76
St Kilda		76
Brisbane Lions		75
Carlton		75
Fremantle		74
Melbourne		74
Sydney Swans		74
Richmond		73

Experience key to tipping glory

EVERYONE has their theory on footy tipping — the winter ritual that sees thousands chase workplace glory and bragging rights at the end of the season.

Is it knowledge, skill or just plain luck?

At last, the *Herald Sun* can reveal the comprehensive guide to becoming the perfect tipster. What makes people jump for joy in the staff kitchen on Monday morning while others bemoan their dud tips?

Using statistics provided by ExtraCorp, the firm responsible for 650,000 tipsters across 30,000 competitions, we lift the lid on the art of

Sam Edmund

sports affairs reporter

footy tipping. As tipsters prepare for a final tilt at glory, the *Herald Sun* can reveal:

YOU will rarely enjoy the satisfaction of beating your boss, with statistics showing higher-income earners are better tipsters.

EXPERIENCE pays. Punters in their 60s are the shrewd ones, sitting an average eight tips ahead of teenage rivals going into Round 17.

TAKING the time to think about your selections is vital, with retirees using their extra hours to move ahead of engineers, lawyers and students.

THE Saturday of every round is crucial, with statistics showing it is the most difficult day to pick a winner.

BE on your game early. The first few rounds are the most difficult and therefore vital as results become slightly more predictable later in the year.

PREVIOUS results between two teams should not be ignored, with the last game's winner a 57 per cent chance to repeat the dose.

GO with the home team if you are unsure about a certain game. They win 56 per cent of the time.

In a season that has signalled the resurgence of Victorian teams, loyal tipsters have been rewarded.

Previously suffering Geelong, Hawthorn and Kangaroos fans boast the highest average scores.

Geelong homemaker and passionate Cats supporter Joy Sutton has a staggering 102 after 17 rounds, putting her clear atop the popular competition at footytips.com.au.

Ms Sutton, 64, explained that the secret of her success was embarking on a solid week of preparation before each round.

"I study the *Herald Sun* on Monday and Friday but I'm not really sure how I'm doing it," she said. "I've been lucky but I'm a really keen Geelong supporter and aren't they doing well?"

"I've gambled a bit sometimes with teams who haven't been winning, and they've won."

Financial expert Sarah Lawson is second with 101, making a mockery of statistics that show men are better tipsters than women.

Ms Lawson sticks to a routine, always doing her tips on Friday mornings.

"Once I've made up my mind, that's it, I don't go back and change them," she said. "I've started looking at the betting to see who the favourites are. I didn't do that at the beginning but lately I've just started sticking with the favourites, which is working at the moment."