

Friday 17 November 2023 Volume 348



The 2024 AFL season will kick start on the 7th of March , yep you read that correct that date is the earliest starting date in VFL / AFL history . Some sporting experts have likened this to a game of cat and mouse , but in this case the AFL has taken the cheese while the NRL are having a crack at the Las Vegas market . Quite simply AFL Starting Round is made up of only four matches but are only played in NSW and Queensland on the Thursday , Friday and the Saturday . AFL CEO

Andrew Dillon has commented "We were fortunate to be in a position where we were able to have access to our major venues in Queensland and New South Wales a weekend earlier than usual, which gave us a unique opportunity to play these four games in key markets where footy continues to grow in popularity," "The four match-ups are big, with four of our biggest-supported Victorian clubs travelling north, and we look forward to starting our season with real momentum before we head into a blockbuster round of matches in Round One. "We continue to find opportunities to build marquee games and events across the season, with recent examples being King's Birthday Eve, Anzac Day Eve and Gather Round and our four matches in the Opening Round build on this approach. "Given this weekend also falls on the Labour Day long weekend in Victoria, it presents a terrific opportunity for fans to travel north to support their club and enjoy an extended interstate break." A good sense of humour helps as sacked AFLW Bulldogs coach Nathan Burke thru out a social media tag late in the day "Sacked in the morning...win Tatts in the arvo " but the picture of his winning ticket would have tricked a few wags as it only showed a modest \$11.75 prize. Name the 4 Bulldogs players from 1974 ?



By popular demand we have submitted to the pressure that once in a blue moon we will supply " The Joke Of The Week " Its Matilda's birthday and her mum takes her to the doll shop and she can choose any doll in the shop so picks out GI Joe , her mother asks " gee Matilda I thought that Barbie only comes with Ken " to which Matilda says gee mum everyone knows that Barbie only comes with GI Joe , she only fakes it with Ken"!!! But on a serious note it has come to our attention that a two year old filly named Barbie's Sister is having her first race start at the Sunshine Coast on Saturday . This filly as a full sister to the Stakes winner Outback Barbie who won over \$1.593 Million . Our Queensland expert Jungle Jim informs us that Barbie's sister has a unraced three year old full sister and her official race name is Coastal Barbie.



Jimmy Olsen	The Mailman	Tower Of Knowledge
MR 6 # 3 Snapback	BR 7 # 8 Cottee	AR 3 # 11 Stupendous
BR 6 # 1 Arentee	SR 9 # 11 Tavi Time	AR 4 # 3 Apache Star
MR 7 # 7 Zourion	BR 10 # 5 Defiant Spirit	AR 9 # 1 Three Rings

Morphettville	Caulfield	Newcastle	Sunshine Coast
Crystal Clear	The Shark	Harbour Harry	Jungle Jim
R1 : 5 , 3 , 2 , 4	1: 2 , 1 , 4 , 3	1 : 1 , 4 , 2 , 7	1: 6 , 5 , 1 , 11
R2 : 8 , 4 , 1 , 6	2: 4 , 6 , 10 , 11	2 : 5 , 6 , 9 , 2	2: 5 , 3 , 15 , 10
R3 : 14 , 11 , 12 , 9	3: 4 , 6 , 10 , 12	3 : 8 , 2 , 4 , 7	3: 11 , 1 , 2 , 7
R4: 4 , 3 , 1 , 2	4: 12 , 2 , 7 , 11	4 : 3 , 9 , 4 , 6	4 : 17 , 4 , 3 , 1
R5: 6 , 4 , 5 , 7	5: 11 , 5 , 4 , 7	5 : 12 , 6 , 2 , 7	5: 4 , 8 , 2 , 12
R6: 1 , 3 , 2 , 6	6: 3 , 1 , 2 , 4	6 : 12 , 11 , 9 , 1	6: 8 , 12 , 1 , 3
R7: 10 , 7 , 4 , 2	7: 4 , 3 , 2 , 6	7 : 6 , 9 , 12 , 3	7: 8 , 5 , 3 , 13
R8: 9 , 4 , 5 , 6	8 : 11 , 13 , 2 , 6	8 : 1 , 11 , 6 , 3	8: 3 , 4 , 11 , 1
R9 : 1 , 5 , 3 , 7	9 : 3 , 11 , 10 , 1	9 : 8 , 11 , 6 , 3	9: 1 , 2 , 8 , 6
	10: 2 , 1 , 3 , 11	10 : 6 , 7 , 8 , 1	10: 5 , 1 , 6 , 13

LOZ THE STATS MAN



By: *Lawrie Colliver*

The Aussies are through to the World Cup Final on Sunday after a hard fought three wicket win over South Africa at Eden Gardens overnight. The victory was set up with some brilliant new ball bowling from Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc which saw the Saffas reduced to 4-24. The Aussies were also on fire in the field with David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne stopping everything to put the Proteas under massive pressure early on. To their credit South Africa recovered and at 4-111 were back in the game, but then with Adam Zampa not at his best, Travis Head was called up to bowl and struck in his first over, to dismiss Heinrich Klassen and Marco Jansen in consecutive balls to be on a hat-trick.

David Miller made a magnificent 101 as Saffas reached a respectable 212, which was going to be a tricky chase on a pitch that was really starting to take spin. The opener came out and smacked 60 off the first six overs, to take the scoreboard pressure out the game. Warner hammered four sixes in his 29 before being bowled while Travis Head belted 62 off 48 balls, but with his dismissal at 3-106 one felt it was far from over. A real battle for runs against the spinners developed, with Tabraiz Shamsi getting Marnus Labuschagne (18) and Glenn Maxwell (1), Australia then 5-137 as 213 looked a long way off.

Steve Smith (30) had things under control until he miscued one and Josh Inglis (28) found form at the right time, but when he was yorked, Australia still wanted 20 to win with just three wickets left. In some very tense cricket, every run had to be fought for as skipper Pat Cummins and Starc saw the team home with 16 balls to spare

Looking to Sunday's final and at the moment India have an invincibility like the West Indies of the 1980s and the Australians at the 2003 and 2007 World Cups. They hardly have a weakness and on their home surface will be very difficult to beat on Sunday night. Australia's big hope to knock them off would be to bat first and make 320 plus and hope to knock over their top order to set up a victory. The Aussies have won eight in a row and most of the victories have been scrappy, so they'll need to try and make it a street fight to win. If India bats first I fear it will be similar to the semi where the locals batted New Zealand out of the game.

But in a one-off game Australia has a big chance to knock them off, hopefully Starc and Hazlewood can repeat their brilliant new ball spells of the semi and one or two of the Aussies can fire big time with the bat to bring home a sixth World Cup title.

At the WACA after two days, WA is well placed to beat SA but haven't had it all their way. SA made just 192 but kept the bowlers did well to keep WA to just 204. SA's top order again failed to produce but thanks to some fight from Harry Nielsen (42*) lead by 107 with four wickets still to fall. On a tough surface to bat on, 26 wickets have fallen so far, so any sort of target over 180 could be defendable, but I don't like our chances.