



Footy tipping is good for you, national survey shows

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Article from: <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/> **Herald Sun**

Matthew Schulz
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THREE days from the start of the AFL season, a study shows footy tipping is not only good for bragging rights, but could boost your career.

A Newspoll national survey on office tipping shows men are twice as likely as women to think their bosses will look favourably on the leading tipster, while three-quarters of tipsters think it improves workplace morale.

Half say tipping makes the office a more relaxed place to be.

But be warned, one in 10 men say their office-tipping competition has turned into a battle of the sexes.

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With the AFL season kicking off this week with the [Richmond-Carlton blockbuster at the](http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/sport/afl/story/0,26576,25221570-19742,00.html) (<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/sport/afl/story/0,26576,25221570-19742,00.html>) MCG on Thursday night, the survey of full-time workers also found 69 per cent thought tipping created a connection with other workers, particularly when starting a new job.

Footytips.com.au's Heath Kilgour said footy tipping had become an "integral part of the workplace" by encouraging relationships and inclusion.

"Footy tipping is the great organisational leveler. It doesn't matter if you're the CEO or the intern, everyone is considered equal and importantly, it enables people to strike up a conversation without discussing work or work place politics," Mr Kilgour said.

He says tipping is one of the "last bastions of egalitarianism in the workplace".

"Footy tipping ... is a clear sign from management to employees that we're all equal," she said.

But while men mostly thought they dominated the tipping competitions, the research shows in fact men and women were consistently the same.

The results also show:

- Males (24%) were more enthusiastic than females (14%) about joining a company with a footy tipping competition;
- Only 3% would let their boss win;
- Unmarried tipsters (5%) were more likely to cheat than married ones (1%);
- 9% thought the boss would look more favourably on the competition's winner.

The *Herald Sun's* own football tipping and fantasy games are also generating a growing share of debate between Monday experts.

[SuperCoach](http://supercoach.heraldsun.com.au/) (<http://supercoach.heraldsun.com.au/>) creator Matthew Pinkney said the fantasy competition, already approaching 250,000 players, lets fans see how well they fared as a coach – basing their success on the on-field performance of real AFL players.

The game is now Australia's biggest fantasy football competition with legendary Essendon coach [Kevin Sheedy](http://search.news.com.au/search?us=ndmheraldsun&sid=5017671&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.SPECIALREPORT.SUPERFOOTYWRAP&q=Kevin%20Sheedy%20superfooty) (<http://search.news.com.au/search?us=ndmheraldsun&sid=5017671&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.SPECIALREPORT.SUPERFOOTYWRAP&q=Kevin%20Sheedy%20superfooty>), Geelong champion [Gary Ablett](http://search.news.com.au/search?q=Gary+Ablett+superfooty&sid=5017671&us=ndmheraldsun&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.SPECIALREPORT.SUPERFOOTYWRAP) (<http://search.news.com.au/search?q=Gary+Ablett+superfooty&sid=5017671&us=ndmheraldsun&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.SPECIALREPORT.SUPERFOOTYWRAP>), Hawthorn star [Shane Crawford](http://search.news.com.au/search?us=ndmheraldsun&sid=661&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.HOME&q=Shane%20Crawford) (<http://search.news.com.au/search?us=ndmheraldsun&sid=661&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.HOME&q=Shane%20Crawford>) and cricket's spin king [Shane Warne](http://search.news.com.au/search?q=Shane+Warne&sid=661&us=ndmheraldsun&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.HOME) (<http://search.news.com.au/search?q=Shane+Warne&sid=661&us=ndmheraldsun&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.HOME>) among the players.

Players can even add Sheedy to their league if they want to pit themselves against the best.

"What we've found is that the main attraction of [SuperCoach](http://supercoach.heraldsun.com.au/) (<http://supercoach.heraldsun.com.au/>) is the private leagues allow groups of workers to play against each other," Mr Pinkney said.

"It's a great way the people down the line can sledge their boss and thrash them.

"And on Mondays it will dominate the early part of the day because people are talking about which players did well, how many trades they have left – which they'll usually lie about because no one wants to give away an advantage.

"It's all part of the intrigue that goes with managing a [SuperCoach](http://supercoach.heraldsun.com.au/) (<http://supercoach.heraldsun.com.au/>) team."

Meanwhile, experts in the *Herald Sun* [SuperTipping](http://supertipping.heraldsun.com.au/?p=index) (<http://supertipping.heraldsun.com.au/?p=index>) competition - which drew nearly 70,000 players last year - say the secret to success is keeping things simple.

Last year's [SuperTipping](http://supertipping.heraldsun.com.au/?p=index) (<http://supertipping.heraldsun.com.au/?p=index>) winner, Frances Delaney, said "just tip who you like".

The winner of the \$10,000 online competition said, "It was always a spur-of-the-moment thing, I pick who I like, with a bit of a look at their performance the previous week."

She said while her mates often stressed about the decision, she made her tips quickly.

Senior AFL writer Mark Stevens led the pack of 30 *Herald Sun* expert and celebrity tipsters and revelled in office bragging rights.

"It is a funny thing the tipping page - you can write endless what you think are interesting articles through the year, but you get more comments about who you tipped than anything you write," Stevens mused.

"And even though it was great to win in the paper, sadly I was beaten by an 11-year-old girl in the Herald and Weekly Times carpark competition, which sums up how fickle tipping contests really are.

"Don't over-analyse but always wait for the teams. One or two late changes can make a difference.

"Start the tipping year conservatively and stay in the main pack. Then when you are in striking distance at round 17, start taking some risks. It's no good trying to be a showboat early and end your season before it's started."

Watsonia's Kane Schwarze, 29, won \$50,000 when he came third in the TAB Sportsbet tipping contest.

"I pick my teams quickly because if you look into it too far you over-analyse it," he said.

"I get home from work on Friday night and get them in half an hour before play. I don't muck around much."

He said playing Herald Sun **SuperCoach** (<http://supercoach.heraldsun.com.au/?p=index>) every week helped.

"It keeps you up with who is playing well or not and which teams have stand-out players.

"You get a better feel for the game and the teams."

Other big tipping competitions are run by Sportsbet, TAB and MMM.

- with Kelly Ryan

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