



## Canadian Darren Molen is WA's top AFL tipster

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Braden Quartermaine

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### **WA's footy tipsters have been shown up by a foreigner - Canadian expat and Eagles supporter Darren Molen, 39, is the state's leading tipper.**

Sitting pretty on 116 ahead of this weekend's round, Mr Molen has dished out some ribbing to his workmates at Houghton Wines in the Swan Valley, where he is packaging manager.

"I give all the guys a bit of stick," he said. "I say `a bloody Canadian tipping better than you guys, you should be ashamed of yourselves'.

"In the early rounds they were saying I would fall back, but I just kept staying up the top of the leaderboard and pulling away from them, so it's great having the bragging rights."

According to statistics provided by footytips.com.au and the firm ExtraCorp, West Coast Eagles supporters are the second most loyal group among tipsters, backing the reigning premiers 90 per cent of the time.

Dockers supporters are more likely to go with their heads than their hearts, picking against their own team 25 per cent of the time.

Geelong supporters are riding the Cats' winning run, backing them 93 per cent of the time this season.

Mr Molen studies the form and experts' picks, and has relied more on favourites than in recent years.

"I knew I was going all right," he said. ``But I didn't think I was going that good. I've just had a great run."

He said routine was important -- "and not second-guessing my tips."

"In previous years I'd think about it too much and then change tips. You should stick with your gut feeling."

Another rule, he said, was "not panicking when I started to drop off. A lot of people, as soon as they start to drop off, they tip a bit radical and go for the upsets, and then they find themselves getting further and further behind.

"There is luck in it as well. There've been quite a few close games that have fallen my way this year that haven't in previous years."

Statistics reveal also that higher-income earners and retirees make better tippers.

The Saturday of every round is critical, being the most difficult day to pick a winner.

Home teams are a good bet, getting up 56 per cent of the time.

Geelong supporters have been the best tippers, with West Coast fans eighth and Dockers' followers 13th.

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