

Australian Football

VFL, Rd 12
RICHMOND 2.5 7.6 9.8 11.10 (76)
CASEY 0.1 1.2 3.3 7.6 (48)

Goals: Richmond: Bzenic 3 Moore 2 Elton 2 Silvestro Bolton Townsend Ellis. Casey: Scott 2 Fritsch 2 Kennedy Maynard Ferrina.

COLLINGWOOD 4.0 5.2 9.4 11.10 (76)
GEEELONG 1.2 5.3 6.6 7.8 (50)

Goals: Collingwood: Kirby 4 White 2 Hellier Blair Aish Crocker Borthwick. Geelong: Henry Tsitas Gardner Capiron Ratugolea Hayball Dobson.

WERRIBEE 2.2 5.7 8.12 12.15 (87)
COBURG 5.0 7.5 9.7 10.9 (69)

Goals: Werribee: Corbett 4 Maishman 3 Pinnuck 2 Clarke Preuss Williams. Coburg: Tilley 2 McEvoy 2 Kerbatieh 2 Curtis Goodwin Mullane Exon.

PORT MELB 4.3 9.6 9.8 13.8 (86)
NORTHERN 1.1 5.4 6.5 9.9 (63)

Goals: Port Melbourne: Nahas 3 Cain 3 Pearson 2 Clarke 2 Murdoch O'Sullivan Lisie. Northern: Gallucci 2 Russell 2 Boekhorst Sumner McKay Korcheck Kerr.

WAFU, Rd 16
SOUTH FREM 1.1 7.5 10.5 14.7 (91)
CLAREMONT 5.1 6.3 7.6 10.6 (66)

Goals: Claremont: 3 Richardson 1 A Manuel M Guelfi N Wimmar B Maister M Andrews J Laurie C Oakley. South Fremantle: 5 H Schlotthe 3 J Florenca 2 B Johnson B Saunders 1 S Edwards T Kelly.

SUBIACO 4.6 9.15 14.18 20.21 (141)
PERTH 1.0 3.0 5.2 9.5 (59)

Goals: Subiaco: 4 L Ryan 3 B Sokol 2 L Delahunty A Creeper R Vermeersch 1 A Litherland J Joyce J Garcia L Baker S Hancock B Stevenson K Horsley. Perth: 3 G Narrier 2 K Cary B Johnson 1 C Papertalk C Ninnyette.

SWAN DISTRICTS 3.3 5.6 9.8 12.11 (83)
EAST FREM 1.1 6.5 8.7 11.10 (76)

Goals: Swan Districts: 2 D Ellard T Stewart J Bennell 1 R Crowley J Manton A Howard A Faulkner T Banfield B Noble. East Fremantle: 3 J Perham 2 M Watson C Holmes G Hampson 1 A Howson C Eardley.

PEEL THUNDER 5.0 8.0 11.0 16.3 (99)
WEST PERTH 0.3 0.8 2.12 9.15 (69)

Goals: West Perth: 2 C Chalmers T Keitel L Meadows 1 A Strijk K Manning A Black. Peel Thunder: 6 M Taberner 4 C Sutcliffe 2 E Langdon 1 D Cramer 2 Dawson J Griffin H Balic.

SANFL, Rd 12
SOUTH ADEL 3.0 9.4 12.4 13.5 (83)
CENTRAL DIST 2.4 2.5 4.8 5.11 (41)

Goals: South Adelaide: Benjamin Haren 3 Veide 2 Szust 2 Cross Davis Gulden. Nic Schwarz Hunter Liddle. Central District: Justin Hoskin 2 Goodrem Marcus Barreau Fort.

STURT 2.0 7.2 12.3 13.3 (81)
NORTH ADEL 0.1 1.4 1.5 6.9 (45)

Goals: Sturt: Kory Beard 5 Dodd 4 Wilson 2 McMahon Evans. North Adelaide: Keenan Ramsey 3 Quinn Thring Schwarz.

EAGLES 2.8 6.14 7.19 11.19 (85)
WEST ADEL 2.0 3.1 3.4 5.10 (40)

Goals: Eagles: Nicholas Hayes 3 Hayes 2 Hall 2 West Westbrook Johansen. Ethan Haylock. West Adelaide: Mason Middleton 2 Green 2 Silverlock.

PORT ADEL 2.6 6.8 10.9 17.10 (112)
ADELAIDE 3.2 4.4 7.5 8.6 (54)

Goals: Port Adelaide: Brett Eddy 3 Johnson 3 Frampton 3 Ladhams 2 Gray Summerton. Angus Monfries Hewett Palmer Young. Adelaide: Elliott Himmelberg 4 Beech 2 Seedsman Menzel.

Cricket
First Test
England v South Africa

Goals: England 1st innings: A COOK c de Kock b Philander... 3 K JENNINGS lbw Philander... 8 G BALLANCE lbw Morkel... 20

Extras (2lb 13nb) 15
All out for 458

Fall: 14 (Cook), 17 (Jennings), 49 (Ballance), 76 (Bairstow), 190 (Stokes), 367 (Root), 367 (Dawson), 413 (Ali), 413 (Wood), 458 (Anderson)

Bowling: M Morkel 25.3-2-115-4 (2nb), V Philander 20-3-67-3 (5nb), K Rabada 28-4-123-3 (1nb), K Maharaj 22-1-107-0 (1nb), T de Bruyn 5-1-30-0, T Bavuma 5-0-14-0

Over: 105.3
SOUTH AFRICA 1st innings
D ELGAR c Ballance b Ali... 54 H KUHN c Cook b Broad... 1

Extras (4b 5lb 1nb) 10
Five wickets for 214



Fall: 10 (Kuhn), 82 (Amla), 98 (Elgar), 104 (Duminy), 203 (Bruyn)
Bowling: J Anderson 12-4-27-1, S Broad 14-5-27-2, M Wood 11-3-30-0, L Dawson 8-1-45-0, M Ali 13-5-35-2, B Stokes 10-1-41-0 (1nb)
Over: 68

Cycling

Tour de France
Stage 7, 213-km from Troyes to Nuits-Saint-Georges

- 1. Marcel Kittel (GER/QST) 5hr3min18sec; 2. Edvald Boasson Hagen (NOR/DDD) same time; 3. Michael Matthews (AUS/SUN) ST; 4. Alexander Kristoff (NOR/KAT) ST; 5. John Degenkolb (GER/TFS) ST; 6. Dylan Groenewegen (NED/TLJ) ST; 7. Rudiger Selig (GER/BOH) ST; 8. Nacer Bouhanni (FRA/COF) ST; 9. Andre Greipel (GER/LTS) ST; 10. Daniel McLay (ENG/TFO) ST; 11. Arnaud Demare (FRA/LIJ) ST; 12. Rick Zabel (GER/KAT) ST; 13. Lilian Calmejrane (FRA/DEN) ST; 14. Oliver Naesen (BEL/ALM) ST; 15. Andrea Pasqualon (ITA/WGG) ST; 16. Jack Bauer (NZL/QST) ST; 17. Reinardt Janse Van Rensburg (RSA/DDD) ST; 18. Sonny Colbrelli (ITA/TBM) ST; 19. Grega Bole (SLO/TBM) ST; 20. Pieter Vanspeybrouck (BEL/WGG) ST. Other Australians: 24. Mathew Hayman (ORS) ST; 30. Jay McCarthy (BOH) ST; 35. Richie Porte (BMC) ST; 68. Adam Hansen (LTS) ST; 91. Simon Clarke (CDT) ST; 145. Mark Renshaw (DDD) 44; 171. Damien Howson (ORS) 1:52

General Classification: 1. Chris Froome (ENG/SKY) 28hr47min51sec; 2. Geraint Thomas (WAL/SKY) 12; 3. Fabio Aru (ITA/AST) 14; 4. Daniel Martin (IRL/QST) 25; 5. Richie Porte (AUS/BMC) 39; 6. Simon Yates (ENG/ORS) 43; 7. Romain Bardet (FRA/ALM) 47; 8. Alberto Contador (ESP/TFS) 52; 9. Nairo Quintana (COL/MOV) 54; 10. Rafał Majka (POL/BOH) 1:01; 11. Rigoberto Uran (COL/CDT) same time; 12. Pierre Latour (FRA/ALM) 1:07; 13. Louis Meintjes (RSA/UAD) 1:24; 14. Emanuel Buchmann (GER/BOH) 1:29; 15. Jakob Fuglsang (DEN/AST) 1:33; 16. Mikkel Landa (ESP/SKY) 1:47; 17. Tim Wellens (BEL/LTS) 1:51; 18. Michal Kwiatkowski (POL/SKY) 1:56; 19. Andrew Talansky (USA/CDT) 1:57; 20. Serge Pauwels (BEL/DDD) 2:00. Other Australians: 54. Jay McCarthy (BOH) 8:05; 66. Simon Clarke (CDT) 10:41; 84. Michael Matthews (SUN) 13:53; 123. Damien Howson (ORS) 18:09; 135. Mathew Hayman (ORS) 19:58; 158. Adam Hansen (LTS) 24:14; 159. Mark Renshaw (DDD) 24:29

Golf

US PGA Greenbrier Classic
Second round at White Sulphur Springs, WV (par-70)

- 128: Juan Sebastian Munoz (COL) 61 67
131: Ben Martin (USA) 64 67, Hudson Swafford (USA) 65 66
132: Davis Love III (USA) 63 69, Russell Henley (USA) 68 64, Danny Lee (NZL) 64 68
133: Jamie Lovemark (USA) 69 64, Kiefer Kraft (USA) 67 66, Xander Schauffele (USA) 64 69, Nick Taylor (CAN) 64 69, Robert Streb (USA) 65 68
134: Graham DeLaet (CAN) 64 70, Nick Watney (USA) 70 64, David Hearn (CAN) 65 69, Smylie Kaufman (USA) 68 66
135: Tony Finau (USA) 69 66, James Hahn (USA) 71 64, Patrick Reed (USA) 66 69, Ryan Blaum (USA) 68 67, Jonathan Randolph (USA) 67 68, Brian Campbell (USA) 68 67
Australians: 136: Matt Jones 66 70; 138: Curtis Luck 69 69 Geoff Ogilvy 69 69; MISSED THE CUT: 142: Steven Bowditch 70 72 Greg Chalmers 71 71; 144: Cameron Percy 70 74; 149: Stuart Appleby 75 74

European PGA Irish Open
Second round at Londonderry, Northern Ireland (par-72): Second round

- 131: Daniel Im (USA) 64 67, Benjamin Hebert (FRA) 64 67
132: Jon Rahm (ESP) 65 67
133: Ryan Fox (NZL) 67 66, Matthew Southgate (ENG) 65 68, Oliver Fisher (ENG) 65 68
134: Paul Peterson (USA) 67 67
135: David Drysdale (SCO) 66 69, Anthony Wall (ENG) 67 68, Hideto Tanihara (JPN) 70 65, Hideki Matsuyama (JPN) 67 68
Australians: 137: Andrew Dodd 71 66, Wade Ormsby 67 70; 138: Marcus Fraser 71 67; 139: Scott Hend 71 68; 140: Sam Brazel 70 70; MISSED THE CUT: 147: Jason Scrivener 70 77; 148: Brett Rumford 74 74

LPGA Thornberry Creek Classic
Second round at Oneida, Wisconsin (par-72, play suspended)

- 131: Katherine Kirk (AUS) 68 63
134: Jaye Marie Green (USA) 68 66
-10: Sandra Gal (GER) 68 - 13holes
135: Pavarisa Yolkuan (THA) 67 68, Ashleigh Buhai (RSA) 69 66, Lee Il-Hee (KOR) 67 68, Moriya Jutanugarn (THA) 67 68
136: Karine Icher (FRA) 67 69, Christina Kim (USA) 69 67, Amelia Lewis (USA) 67 69, Madeleine Sheils (USA) 66 70
Other Australians: -3: Karrie Webb 69 - 11holes; 141: Minjee Lee 69 72; 148: Sarah-Jane Smith 75 73; +4: Sarah Kemp 73 - 12holes

Ladies European Thailand Championship
Third round at Pattaya (par-72)

- 210: Ana Mendez (MEX) 68 72 70
211: Atthaya Thitikul (THA) 70 71 70
214: Amy Boulton (WAL) 73 74 67, Pimpadsorn Sang (SWE) 73 70 71
215: Whitney Hillier (AUS) 74 72 69
216: Janya Morrakotpan (THA) 74 71 71, Karolin Lampert (GER) 71 71 74
217: Camille Chevalier (FRA) 74 71 72, Anne van Dam (NED) 76 71 70, Lina Boqvist (SWE) 73 71 73, Sarah Schober (AUT) 72 73 72, Jessica Karlsson (SWE) 71 73 73, Ploychompo Wilairureng (THA) 73 73 71
Other Australian: 233: Celina Yuan 77 72

Motor Sport

Supercars, Rd 7
Townsville 400 at Townsville Street Circuit, Queensland

- Race 1 (70 laps): 1. Scott McLaughlin (Ford) 1h 28m 19.7419s; 2. Jamie Whincup (Holden) 1:28:23.8374; 3. Mark Winterbottom (Ford) 1:28:35.1476; 4. Chaz Mostert (Ford) 1:28:40.0008; 5. Cameron Waters (Ford) 1:28:48.2640; 6. Craig Lowndes (Holden) 1:28:53.9110; 7. Shane Van Gisbergen (Holden) 1:28:56.7641; 8. Garth Tander (Holden) 1:28:56.8589; 9. David Reynolds (Holden) 1:28:57.3381; 10. James Moffat (Holden) 1:28:58.0206; 11. Fabian Coulthard (Ford) 1:28:59.6576; 12. Lee Holdsworth (Holden) 1:29:05.1751; 13. Scott Pye (Holden) 1:29:09.0693; 14. Michael Caruso (Nissan) 1:29:16.6991; 15. Dale Wood (Holden) 1:29:21.2608;

Qualifying for Race 1: 1. Scott McLaughlin (Ford) 1m 12.0730s; 2. Jamie Whincup (Holden) 1:12.2860; 3. Chaz Mostert (Ford) 1:12.3370; 4. Cameron Waters (Ford) 1:12.3750; 5. Shane Van Gisbergen (Holden) 1:12.3970; 6. Mark Winterbottom (Ford) 1:12.4220; 7. Nick Percat (Holden) 1:12.4370; 8. David Reynolds (Holden) 1:12.5560; 9. Fabian Coulthard (Ford) 1:12.5590; 10. Michael Caruso (Nissan) 1:12.6320; 11. Tim Slade (Holden) 1:12.6470; 12. Lee Holdsworth (Holden) 1:12.6470; 13. Garth Tander (Holden) 1:12.6510; 14. Scott Pye (Holden) 1:12.6510; 15. Todd Kelly (Nissan) 1:12.6700

Rugby Union

Super Rugby, Rd 16
QUEENSLAND REDS 16 (Hamish Stewart try Quade Cooper con 3 pens) d BRUMBIES 15 (1 penalty try) (Kyle Godwin try Wharenui Hawera pen); FORCE 31 (Adam Coleman, Richard Hardwick, Bill Meakes, Chance Peni tries Peter Grant 4 cons pen) d REBELS 22 (Marika Koroibete 2, Colby Fainiga'a tries Reece Hodge 2 cons pen); Bye-Blues, Cheetahs, Crusaders, Highlanders, Lions, Sharks

Standings table with columns: P, W, D, L, PF, PA, PD, BP, Pts

Third Test
NEW ZEALAND 15 (Jordie Barrett, Ngani Laumape tries Beauden Barrett con pen) drew LIONS 15 (Owen Farrell 4, Elliot Daly pens) at Eden Park. Referee: Romain Poite.

Tennis

Wimbledon
Day 5 in London (prefix denotes seeding)

MEN'S: Third round: 1-Andy Murray (GBR) d 28-Fabio Fognini (ITA) 6-2 4-6 6-1 7-5; Kevin Anderson (RSA) d Q-Ruben Bemelmans (BEL) 7-6(3) 6-4 7-6(3); 4-Rafa Nadal (ESP) d 30-Karen Khachanov (RUS) 6-1 6-4 7-6(3); Benoit Paire (FRA) d Jerzy Janowicz (POL) 6-2 7-6(3) 6-3; 7-Marin Cilic (CRO) d 26-Steve Johnson (USA) 6-4 7-6(3) 6-4; 18-Roberto Bautista (ESP) d 9-Kei Nishikori (JPN) 6-4 7-6(3) 3-6 6-3; 16-Gilles Muller (LUX) d Aljaz Bedene (GBR) 7-6(4) 7-5 6-4.

WOMEN'S: Third round: 10-Venus Williams (USA) d Naomi Osaka (JPN) 7-6(3) 6-4; 13-Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) d Camila Giorgi (ITA) 7-5 7-5; 6-Johanna Konta (GBR) d Maria Sakkari (GRE) 6-4 6-1; 4-Elina Svitolina (UKR) d Carina Witthoft (GER) 6-1 7-5; 2-Simona Halep (ROU) d Peng Shuai (CHN) 6-4 7-6(7); 27-Ana Konjuh (CRO) d 8-Dominika Cibulkova (SVK) 7-6(3) 3-6 6-4; Victoria Azarenka (BLR) d WC-Heather Watson (GBR) 3-6 6-1 6-4; 21-Caroline Garcia (FRA) d Madison Brengle (USA) 6-4 6-3.

MEN'S DOUBLES: Second round: Sam Groth (AUS)/Robert Lindstedt (SWE) d 3-Jamie Murray (GBR)/Bruno Soares (BRA) 4-6 6-3 4-6 7-5 7-5; Marcus Daniell (NZL)/Marcelo Demoliner (BRA) d Thanasi Kokkinakis/Jordan Thompson (AUS) 6-4 7-6(0) 6-4; Nicholas Monroe (USA)/Artem Sitak (NZL) d Matt Reid/John-Patrick Smith (AUS) 7-6(2) 6-3 7-6(5).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Second round: 8-Ashleigh Barty/Casey Dellacqua (AUS) d Chuang Chia-Jung (TPE)/Misaki Doi (JPN) 3-6 6-3 10-8; Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS)/Kristina Mladenovic (FRA) d Monique Adamczak/Storm Sanders (AUS) 3-6 7-5 6-2.

MIXED DOUBLES: First round: Mikhail Elgin (RUS)/Anastasia Rodionova (AUS) d Cameron Norrie/Katie Swan (GBR) 6-3 7-5; Marcelo Demoliner (BRA)/Maria Jose Martinez (ESP) d John-Patrick Smith (AUS)/Sloane Stephens (USA) 6-3 3-6 9-7; Yosuke Watanuki/Makoto Ninomiya (JPN) d Dmitry Turunov (RUS)/Daria Gavrilova (USA) 4-6 6-3 6-4; John Peers (AUS)/Sabine Lisicki (GER) d Scott Lipsky (USA)/Alla Kudryavtseva (RUS) 6-4 7-6(4).

Horse Racing

Yesterday's UBET Dividends
DARWIN (DR)

- Race 1: 4 Arctic Song \$1.70 \$1.60 6 Hammered Art \$3.90 2 Lady Phromly NTD. Q: \$7.50. E: \$11.30. T: \$42.60. FIRST 4: (4 6 2 8) \$327.20. Scr: 7.
Race 2: 2 Captain Punch \$2.30 \$1.50 4 Boomwaa \$1.60 1 Gracious Prospect NTD. Q: \$3.50. E: \$7.50. T: \$21.10. FIRST 4: (2 4 1 5) \$86.60. All Started.
Race 3: 6 Niccoco \$10.60 \$2.60 1 The Hummel \$2.20 7 Kilim \$4.90. Q: \$35.50. E: \$80.80. T: \$865.60. A2: 1-6: \$8.20, 6-7: \$9.40, 1-7: \$29.00. FIRST 4: (6 1 7 8) \$43.80. All Started.

- Race 4: 2 Quantum Dot \$4.10 \$1.50 8 Our Swagman \$5.20 5 Lake Jackson \$2.20. Q: \$42.40. E: \$64.40. T: \$381.00. A2: 2-8: \$16.90, 2-5: \$6.00, 5-8: \$15.60. FIRST 4: (2 8 5 7) \$2,049.40. All Started.
Race 5: 6 Threepack \$46.10 \$8.60 4 Du Bois \$2.70 8 Touch Of Flo \$2.10. Q: \$173.40. E: \$268.50. T: \$5,116.10. A2: 4-6: \$60.60, 6-8: \$46.00, 4-8: \$10.90. FIRST 4: (6 4 8 1) \$4,296.00. All Started.

- Race 6: 7 First Draft \$17.50 \$3.50 9 Senor Juez \$2.70 5 Itchyzariz \$6.40. Q: \$68.80. E: \$162.50. T: \$5,450.00. A2: 7-9: \$11.80, 5-7: \$73.50, 5-9: \$34.40. FIRST 4: (7 9 5 4) Not won pool jackpots. Scr: 13,14,15.
Race 7: 2 He's Our Woody \$3.00 \$1.70 5 Grande Castagno \$3.50 3 Grootie Eylandt \$2.30. Q: \$12.50. E: \$24.00. T: \$144.10. A2: 2-5: \$7.60, 2-3: \$4.90, 3-5: \$11.60. FIRST 4: (2 5 3 11) \$3,176.00. Scr: 8.

- Race 8: 9 Krusty \$4.20 \$1.80 11 So Poysed \$2.20 8 Inwood \$3.60. Q: \$17.60. E: \$34.40. T: \$258.30. A2: 9-11: \$4.60, 8-9: \$8.30, 8-11: \$2.90. FIRST 4: (9 11 8 2) \$408.20. Scr: 13,14,15.

- Race 9: 11 Folk Tales \$4.00 \$1.30 10 Spartan Eagle \$2.60 5 Moon Devil \$5.50. Q: \$22.90. E: \$34.30. T: \$578.30. A2: 10-11: \$8.90, 5-11: \$32.00, 5-10: \$10.60. FIRST 4: (11 10 5 4) \$3,337.40. All Started.

EXTRA DOUBLE: 2 Quantum Dot 6 Threepack \$316.20. Sub: 2 Quantum Dot 1 Cha Chang. DOUBLE: 9 Krusty 11 Folk Tales \$24.10. Sub: 2 Billet Doux 7 Lieder. TREBLE: 2 He's Our Woody 9 Krusty 11 Folk Tales \$126.60. Sub: 2 He's Our Woody 2 Billet Doux 7 Lieder. QUADRIE: 7 First Draft 2 He's Our Woody 9 Krusty 11 Folk Tales \$1,250.10. Sub: 1 God Forbid 2 He's Our Woody 2 Billet Doux 7 Lieder.

Minor a major Plate chance

JOSH SPASARO

DON'T discount Maurice Minor's chances of winning the July Plate final from box six at the Winnellie Park greyhounds tonight.

Brian Kelleher is looking after Queensland trainer Tom Tzouvelis' star two-year-old and was instantly impressed with his first run in Darwin in the second Plate heat last Sunday.

Maurice Minor ran a winning time of 3l.84 seconds over 537m. Kennelmate Del Rey went even better, taking out the third heat in 3l.80 seconds.

Del Rey has box two, but Kelleher believes Maurice Minor - who has recorded three wins in Ipswich - is the one to beat in the \$3650 feature race six.

"I've always had a high opinion of him - he's a nice pup," Kelleher said. "The Darwin Cup is the aim."

Kelleher also loves looking after Del Rey, who has two wins and a second from her three starts in the Top End.

"She's a nice bitch and she's staying here. She'll be lovely up here in Darwin," he said.

The Darwin Greyhound Association's leading trainer so far this year, Russell Savage, saw Har win the first July Plate heat in 3l.28 seconds. The three-year-old will have the benefit of starting from box one tonight.

"He's a pretty consistent dog - a good honest chaser," Savage said. "I've had him for two months since Graeme Scott left with health problems. That dog's been running well."

Meanwhile, the speedy Klondike Kate deserves to break through for her first win since December 18, and she looks a good chance for Joel Vansleve in race one.

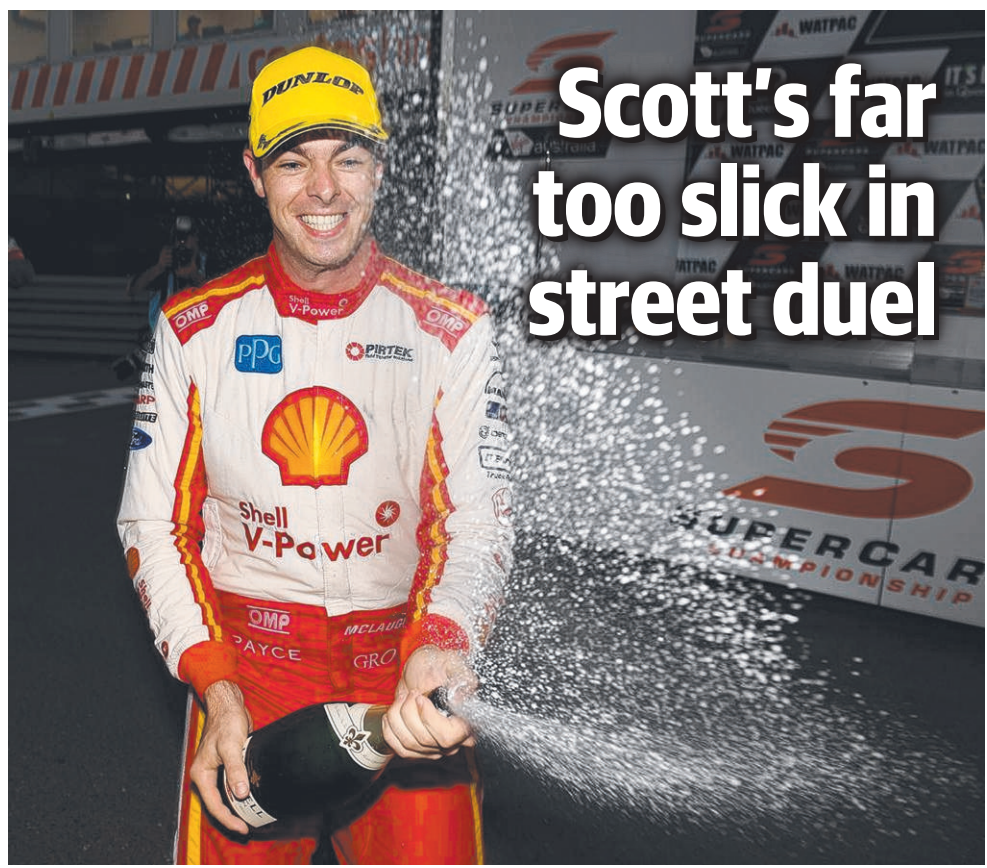
Graeme Ferns has a strong chance in race two with Hawk Glide.

Both Booberry (Vansleve) and Tate's Ransom for Greg Milne return after breaks and can run bold races while fresh in race three.

Jamie Hosking looks to have Summer Chant back to near her best form and she will take holding out in race four. Rob Brown will be hoping Yorgi Road can reproduce her best form which would make her competitive in race five.

Gossip Park (Peter Donnelly) did not get much luck last week so can improve quickly, while Out There Jerry and Bombay Rock for Andrew Lasker will provide stiff opposition in race seven.

Tzouvelis will be heading Soft Sand towards the Darwin Cup, so he would be expecting her to make light work of the race-eight field, particularly from box one.



Scott's far too slick in street duel

Scott McLaughlin celebrates yesterday after taking out the opening race in the Townsville 400, and his 13th overall, from a determined Jamie Whincup

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

IAIN PAYTEN

SCOTT McLaughlin became the man to catch in the Supercars drivers championship after a dominant opening race win in the Townsville 400 that saw teammate Fabian Coulthard spun out of the race and down the leaderboard.

McLaughlin held off Jamie Whincup to post his second consecutive win in his DKR Team Penske Ford and his fifth win of the year. Mark Winterbottom came in third on the Reid Park street circuit.

The 150 points for McLaughlin's win was enough to take him to the top of drivers championship for the first time in his career after a bingle on the second corner ruined the race for previous leader Coul-

thard. Paying the price for a poor qualifying session that saw him start the race ninth, Coulthard was nudged in the helter-skelter mid-pack traffic that saw several cars banged up and with doors flying open.

Coulthard went all the way down to second-last before finishing in 11th and slipping to third in the drivers championship.

Starting in pole position, McLaughlin's only trouble was a determined Whincup still chasing his first win of the season.

The Red Bull Holden star stole the lead with a better start but McLaughlin grabbed it back on the last turn of his third lap.

Whincup's team bosses tried a different fuel strategy

but even that wasn't enough to get ahead of the flawless Kiwi and the speed of his Shell V-Power Ford.

McLaughlin, 24, pulled away to finish four seconds ahead of Whincup.

It was the 13th win for McLaughlin and at the half-way point of the 2017 Supercars championship series, giving him a superb launching pad to secure his first drivers championship.

It also continued the utter dominance of DJR Team Penske, which has won eight of the 13 races so far this year.

"I had an awesome battle there with Jamie at the start, he had a jump leading into turn one and we had a little bump but we got away with it," he said.