

Adelaide vs. Stkilda

Head to Head – Adelaide vs. Stkilda

Round	Venue	Adel Score	STK Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	St Kilda StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
8	TD	108	68	40	7.6	14.8	878	324	554
2001									
15	TD	156	59	97	8.3	18.6	786	231	555
2002									
15	AAMI	99	81	18	11.9	11.9	352	354	-2
2003									
2	TD	91	99	-8	10.8	12.4	472	411	61
17	AAMI	143	86	57	9.4	13.1	596	321	275
2004									
4	AAMI	98	113	-15	13.6	13.8	428	325	102
19	YP	68	91	-23	13.0	14.2	308	281	27
2005									
9	TD	103	57	46	13.1	17.9	467	223	244
Average		108	82	26	11.0	14.6	536	309	227

Finals football hits Saturday night, in what should be the game of the round, with Adelaide having won 10 straight up against Stkilda, which has won 8 of their last 10. The Saints have managed to win 3 of their last 5 against Adelaide, and even though the game is being played at AAMI Stadium, they are very close in the betting this week. Their 139 point win against Brisbane last week may still be at the forefront of most peoples mind, and with the inclusion of some major "ins" for the Saints, they are given a real chance. Even though they have been a very good side in the past 2 years, their StatRating™ against Adelaide hasn't changed in that time to reflect it. They have remained at the 300's against Adelaide, regardless of the venue, round, or form line. They would want to improve on that StatRating™ this week, as unless they are able to restrict Adelaide's scoring, it's nigh on impossible to win a game with that StatRating™ this week.

Adelaide – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
18	AAMI	Syd	54	47	7	19.3	17.6	181	262	-80
19	AAMI	Melb	100	46	54	9.0	25.6	764	129	636
20	AAMI	Port	88	81	7	14.6	16.4	350	280	70
21	AAMI	Coll	151	41	110	9.0	20.0	729	160	569
22	SUB	WCE	82	74	8	14.0	13.3	300	360	-60
Average			95	58	37	13.2	18.6	465	238	227

Well, we predicted Adelaide would come down last week, and they obliged. The “swing” pattern of the StatRating™ Margin followed suit, and they did come down to a 300 StatRating™, but still managed to win the game! A 5.1 1st quarter against West Coast was the best possible start they could have hoped for, considering the Eagles kicked 3.7. With the Eagles having 10 shots at goal, and still behind the 8 ball at quarter time meant it was going to be tough to get back in front. Adelaide held sway for the rest of the game, and held off an Eagles challenge in the last quarter. We’ve been caught off guard by this side so far this year, as most punters have, as we’ve been waiting for the form slump to kick in. Looking back through the season, rounds 5-8 is as close as you’ll get, as the Crows dropped 3 out of 4 games in that period. So will their form swing continue this week? The Table blow highlights the Crows form this year at these current levels, as well as their form in the following week.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
2	TD	Coll	81	75	6	15.0	14.0	352	406	-54
3	AAMI	Port	124	56	68	10.4	17.3	644	219	424
18	AAMI	Syd	54	47	7	19.3	17.6	181	262	-80
19	AAMI	Melb	100	46	54	9.0	25.6	764	129	636
20	AAMI	Port	88	81	7	14.6	16.4	350	280	70
21	AAMI	Coll	151	41	110	9.0	20.0	729	160	569
22	SUB	WCE	82	74	8	14.0	13.3	300	360	-60

The figures highlighted in blue represent current playing criteria, while the figures in red show the game result in the following week, and the cells highlighted in Green indicate Adelaide’s StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Adelaide’s latest form. The Crows have been at these levels 3 times this season, and the following weeks have produced devastating results for the opposition. Their StatRating™ has risen to the 600-700’s, while keeping the opposition to paltry StatRating™ figures. The opposition score has been just 56, 46 and 41 in those games, and they are almost identical in StatRating™ terms. All have been at AAMI Stadium, the venue they’ll play at on Saturday night. Will the fact that it’s a Finals game come into consideration here? Even if it does, and they don’t reach these levels, they would need to come down a hefty amount in order to play poorly this week. It can be said that all the teams they beat at these levels were not at full strength when they played them, but they are convincing wins. Not sure that the Saints will be at their best or be able to field their best 22 this week either.

Stkilda – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
18	MCG	Melb	176	88	88	8.8	11.9	759	413	346
19	TD	Geel	96	55	41	10.5	19.4	561	222	339
20	TD	Kang	108	85	23	10.0	12.5	500	289	211
21	SUB	Freo	75	80	-5	14.9	14.3	302	288	14
22	TD	Bris	186	47	139	8.1	19.8	707	156	550
Average			128	71	57	10.5	15.6	566	274	292

The Saints have now won 8 of their last 10 games to secure a double chance in this finals series, and are certainly one of the form sides of the competition. After a disappointing outcome against Fremantle in round 21, they turned the tables on Brisbane last week in a game that ended up having to be almost classified for an M rating; such was the destruction and carnage that followed. The Lions seemed to be a shell of their former glory, and it was them on the receiving end of intimidation tactics for once. The Saints StatRating™ of 707, along with a StatRating™ Margin of 550 signals peak levels for the Saints, and a possible let down this week. They have been able to hold these levels before as can be seen by their last 5 weeks, but was the trip to Subiaco an anomaly, or a disturbing trend that the Saints have managed to slip into on the road this year? The table below highlights these levels for the Saints in the past 2 years, followed by their form in the next week.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
3	TD	Rich	114	69	45	8.3	13.5	665	238	428
4	AAMI	Adel	113	98	15	13.8	13.6	325	428	-102
8	TD	Coll	138	91	47	8.3	9.9	662	413	249
9	TD	WCE	169	68	101	7.6	10.9	827	348	479
9	TD	WCE	169	68	101	7.6	10.9	827	348	479
10	TD	Carl	196	88	108	8.9	11.1	818	406	412
13	TD	Haw	127	61	66	9.9	16.0	644	219	425
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105
2005										
4	TD	Melb	151	104	47	8.9	8.8	688	566	122
5	TD	Rich	147	79	68	9.2	11.8	555	416	139
15	TD	Carl	153	73	80	8.6	15.9	755	233	522
16	MCG	Rich	106	37	69	12.2	23.1	461	186	274
17	TD	Coll	143	70	73	8.3	15.2	722	303	419
18	MCG	Melb	176	88	88	8.8	11.9	759	413	346
18	MCG	Melb	176	88	88	8.8	11.9	759	413	346
19	TD	Geel	96	55	41	10.5	19.4	561	222	339
22	TD	Bris	186	47	139	8.1	19.8	707	156	550

The figures highlighted in blue represent current playing criteria, while the figures in red show the game result in the following week, and the cells highlighted in Green indicate Stkilda's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Stkilda's latest form. The Saints have been at these levels 8 times in the past 2 years, and have managed 7 wins and 1 loss. Significantly, their 2 worst games have been at away venues back in rounds 4 and 14 last season. They have had no trouble backing up with these figures at either Telstra Dome or the MCG, but have rated 325 and 208 at AAMI Stadium and York Park. They haven't had to travel off these figures this season, but we saw their StatRating™ against Fremantle in round 21 after a 500 StatRating™ the week before. Again the question of finals pressure needs to be asked of this team. Can they lift a notch off these levels against the number 1 team in the competition at their home ground? Only time will tell.

Adelaide – Form at AAMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
1	AAMI	Freo	145	89	56	9.6	11.0	690	364	326
4	AAMI	WCE	106	73	33	11.0	12.9	602	348	253
5	AAMI	Port	66	78	-12	13.9	15.2	345	277	68
7	AAMI	Coll	109	114	-5	10.4	10.3	479	428	51
9	AAMI	WB	109	93	16	11.7	13.7	571	352	220
12	AAMI	Melb	138	65	73	10.5	18.6	505	220	285
14	AAMI	Rich	72	44	28	14.1	21.4	334	196	138
15	AAMI	Ess	90	49	41	12.2	17.1	433	210	223
17	AAMI	Stk	143	86	57	9.4	13.1	596	321	275
18	AAMI	Syd	97	93	4	10.0	11.2	432	376	56
21	AAMI	Kang	64	74	-10	18.9	10.0	191	440	-249
22	AAMI	Port	78	94	-16	15.3	12.1	313	397	-84
EF	AAMI	WCE	113	57	56	10.2	16.3	635	221	414
Average			102	78	24	12.1	14.1	471	319	152
2004										
2	AAMI	Bris	83	104	-21	9.1	9.9	613	455	158
4	AAMI	StK	98	113	-15	13.6	13.8	428	325	102
7	AAMI	Port	119	87	32	8.3	12.4	685	315	369
8	AAMI	Ess	84	135	-51	10.0	7.1	440	784	-344
11	AAMI	Carl	87	91	-4	10.5	11.2	532	384	148
13	AAMI	WB	133	101	32	8.7	11.3	669	432	237
14	AAMI	Melb	145	73	72	9.7	11.6	661	355	306
16	AAMI	Freo	80	92	-12	14.6	14.3	357	294	63
18	AAMI	Kang	49	42	7	13.3	15.9	428	226	202
20	AAMI	Rich	138	86	52	9.6	13.2	635	311	324
21	AAMI	Geel	109	87	22	8.1	10.2	628	558	71
22	AAMI	Port	60	85	-25	15.1	11.0	238	382	-144
Average			99	91	8	10.9	11.8	526	402	124
2005										
1	AAMI	WCE	53	64	-11	16.2	16.2	265	339	-74
3	AAMI	Port	124	56	68	10.4	17.3	644	219	424
6	AAMI	Kang	74	64	10	12.6	21.7	421	189	232
8	AAMI	Bris	63	72	-9	15.9	17.6	364	227	138
10	AAMI	Carl	71	57	14	11.9	17.2	386	198	188
11	AAMI	Ess	151	63	88	12.1	16.1	519	249	270
14	AAMI	Freo	94	88	6	13.8	18.7	422	208	214
16	AAMI	WB	109	35	74	11.5	31.7	549	110	438
18	AAMI	Syd	54	47	7	19.3	17.6	181	262	-80
19	AAMI	Melb	100	46	54	9.0	25.6	764	129	636
20	AAMI	Port	88	81	7	14.6	16.4	350	280	70
21	AAMI	Coll	151	41	110	9.0	20.0	729	160	569
Average			94	60	34	13.0	19.7	466	214	252

The Crows have only dropped 2 games at AAMI Stadium this season, with both being under 2 goals. The opposition StatRating™ confirms their claim as the number 1 defense in the league, with an average of 214. They have restricted opposition sides to an average of just 60 points here this season, with Fremantle and Port Adelaide being the only sides to enter into the 80's. The highest scoring Victorian team against Adelaide at AAMI Stadium this year has been the Kangaroos with 64 points, followed closely by Essendon with 63. When you consider Stkilda's record against Adelaide in the head to head contests over the years, plus their current form followed by a road trip, a StatRating™ of 300 this week would not be out of the question.

Stkilda – Form at AMMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
17	AAMI	Adel	86	143	-57	13.1	9.4	321	596	-275
2004										
4	AAMI	Adel	113	98	15	13.8	13.6	325	428	-102
PF	AAMI	Port	88	94	-6	12.5	9.8	345	482	-137
		Average	96	112	6	13.1	10.9	330	502	-172

The Saints have managed to score in the 80's against Adelaide in the past, and even top the 100 mark last year. Their score of 18.5.113 was an accurate result, and they have averaged 22 shots at goal at AAMI Stadium over the past 3 games. This year, the Crows have allowed the opposition to average just 16 shots at goal against them at AAMI Stadium. Their StatRating™ at the venue comes up at an average of 330, which is in line with every other table we have looked at. At the moment, it's very hard to find positives for the Saints in this game this week.

Stkilda – Form on the road 2004 & 2005

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
4	AAMI	Adel	113	98	15	13.8	13.6	325	428	-102
7	SUB	Freo	95	72	23	11.4	18.1	449	271	178
11	SCG	Syd	76	112	-36	10.2	11.0	461	401	60
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105
19	YP	Adel	91	68	23	14.2	13.0	281	308	-27
21	Gabba	Bris	85	130	-45	15.5	10.4	310	604	-294
QF	Gabba	Bris	69	149	-80	12.6	9.8	293	631	-338
PF	AAMI	Port	88	94	-6	12.5	9.8	345	482	-137
		Average	83	102	-19	13.9	12.5	334	430	-96
2005										
1	Gabba	Bris	93	116	-23	11.3	11.7	533	436	97
2	YP	Freo	59	58	1	16.6	15.0	314	273	40
8	SUB	WCE	52	88	-36	16.8	13.3	232	331	-99
11	YP	Port	81	104	-23	11.0	12.8	474	327	147
21	SUB	Freo	75	80	-5	14.9	14.3	302	288	14
		Average	72	89	-17	14.1	13.4	371	331	40

This table could hold the key to the Saints this week. Since they arrived on the scene in 2004 as a force to be reckoned with, their form on the road has been their Achilles heel. They have played 13 games for just 4 wins and 9 losses. Apart from an accurate score against Adelaide in round 4 of 2004, they have failed to kick over 100points. Their StatRating™ has been in the 300's on average, but they have improved on the opposition StatRating™ this year. Has that been due to an improvement in Stkilda's form, or the fact that they have played 3 games against sides that haven't made it into the Top 8 this year? Their possession per score is still far too high, which means they need to get far more possessions in the game to kick a big score, or kick extremely accurately given their limited shots on goal.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 5 – 3 since 2000 in Adelaide's favour, but 3 of the last 5 games have been won by Stkilda.
- Adelaide continued with their StatRating™ Margin swing last week, and are on the bounce back of their cycle this week. If they continue at these levels, they are in for a big win.
- Stkilda decimated the Lions last week and produced peak levels in the process. They have not traveled well at these levels in the past.
- The Crows have been brilliant at home this year. Average opposition StatRating™ of 214, and score of just 60 points.
- Stkilda have lost 2 of their last 3 at AAMI Stadium, and have returned StatRating™ figures in the 300's in recent times.
- The Saints form on the road since 2004 has been terrible. Average StatRating™ of around 300, with scores less than 100 a feature of their playing style.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Adelaide	\$1.76
Stkilda	\$2.10

At the Line

Adelaide	\$1.90 (- 4.5 points)
Stkilda	\$1.90 (+ 4.5 points)

* For the latest odds on offer visit www.sportsacumen.com

At the line signifies that you will be able to get a better price on Adelaide (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 5 points. In Stkilda's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 5 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 6 points or more, then you collect.

The Saints finally seemed to have arrived since their new found era c2004, and have won 31 of their last 47 games since then. This game carries much importance for them, as they would become the premiership favourites if they were to win. They are definitely on the march, and given the bookmakers assessment of the game, we are in for a close one. But let's just stop, and try to look beyond last weeks result. We see a side that has a 66% winning strike rate overall in the past 2 years, yet has lost 9 of their 13 games on the road by an average of 33 points. A side that is quite capable of carrying this peak performances week in week out until they hit the road. They are up against a side that has finished top of the ladder for good reason, which has the number 1 defense in the competition. With this type of record, can they beat them at home? Yes, they have quite a few players returning from injury, and Adelaide has lost Mark Ricciuto for 1 week. Will that be enough to turn these previous stats on their head, and give Stkilda a win? The bookmakers obviously think so, but I beg to differ. Adelaide easily.

RECOMMENDATION: Triple stake Adelaide at line -4.5 at \$1.95.

GOLD MEMBERSHIP:

Historical StatRating™ figures for Head to Head, current form, Top 8 form, and form at the ground suggest the following points range for these teams.

Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 460 - 520

Points Range: 94 -106

Stkilda Predicted StatRating™: 300 – 360

Points Range: 60 -72

FINAL RESULT: Adelaide 8.9.57(244)

Stkilda 10.5.65(197)

We got caned in both games last week, even though our StatRating™ figures were spot on. Remember, the predicted score for Stkilda means they will be the highest scoring Victorian team against Adelaide this year, and even given that honor, I still see the margin having a big possibility to blow out. Will be looking closely at the weather conditions for this game, but if the rain stays away, a decent collect should be in the offering. The game is rated **5** stars for spread betting purposes.

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