

Adelaide vs. Carlton

Head to Head – Adelaide vs. Carlton

Round	Venue	Adel Score	Carl Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Carlton StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
15	Optus	96	120	-24	10.5	13.8	488	406	82
2001									
4	Optus	62	53	9	15.5	21.4	336	192	144
19	TD	106	53	53	12.7	19.2	456	141	315
EF	MCG	50	118	-68	13.5	10.9	341	552	-211
2002									
9	Optus	131	75	56	10.3	13.4	564	306	258
2003									
13	Optus	92	50	42	11.3	15.1	505	259	246
2004									
11	AAMI	87	91	-4	10.5	11.2	532	384	148
Average		89	80	9	12.0	15.0	460	320	140

Head to head form for both these sides is fairly even with Adelaide leading 4-3 since 2000. Denis Pagan had to endure a couple of sizable defeats when he took over in 2002, both at Optus Oval, before repaying the favour to the Crows last year in round 11 at AAMI stadium. Neil Craig hasn't had the pleasure of hosting Denis Pagan, but would probably like to thank him, as it was this loss last year, as well as some ordinary performances against West Coast and the Western Bulldogs, which enabled him to take over from Gary Ayers, and start his AFL coaching career in round 14. Averages have been even since 2000, but in the last few years, the Crows seemed to have had the better of the Blues, both on the Scoreboard, and on StatRating™. It's this record, and current form, that will see Adelaide go into this game as short priced favourites this week against Carlton at AAMI Stadium.

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										
5	TD	WB	109	140	-31	9.8	10.8	523	548	-25
6	AAMI	Kang	74	64	10	12.6	21.7	421	189	232
7	MCG	Melb	54	78	-24	16.3	12.2	319	444	-125
8	AAMI	Bris	63	72	-9	15.9	17.6	364	227	138
9	TD	Stk	103	57	46	13.1	17.9	467	223	244
Average			81	82	-1	13.5	16.0	419	326	93

Adelaide started the ball rolling in what turned out to be one of the most bizarre weeks in AFL football in recent times, by thumping the Saints by 46 points last Friday night. Each of the 8 games had its own twists and turns, and this game was no different. The Crows were 5 goals down towards the end of the 1st Quarter, and flooded back to stop the onslaught by Stkilda. This seemed to stem the tide, and they went in 24 points down at ¼ time. From that point on, they managed to kick 14 of the next 17 goals of the game in what can only be described as remarkable. Run, run, and more running seemed to be the instructions after ¼ time, as rarely did they go back to assess any options from a mark. Total domination of the next 3 Quarters also enabled them to post some reasonable StatRating™ figures. While the 467 they ended up with is standard, the StatRating™ Margin of 244 against the Saints 223 indicated the Crows may have hit another “peak” performance. The table below highlights similar playing levels the Crows have been at since Neil Craig took over as Coach.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
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
18	AAMI	Kang	49	42	7	13.3	15.9	428	226	202
19	YP	StK	68	91	-23	13.0	14.2	308	281	27
2005										
6	AAMI	Kang	74	64	10	12.6	21.7	421	189	232
7	MCG	Melb	54	78	-24	16.3	12.2	319	444	-125
9	TD	Stk	103	57	46	13.1	17.9	467	223	244

The figures highlighted in yellow 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 StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Adelaide's latest form. While the Crows had a 1-1 record with these figures last year, it must be remembered that Neil Craig took over in round 14, and new coaches mid season seem to have a good strike rate. The round 19 loss last year had similar playing levels to last week's game, as did the round 6 game against the Kangaroos a few weeks back. There's an argument to say that both those games were played away against Top 8 sides, but we'll look into those stats in the following pages to see if they had an effect. Their round 6 game, and the ensuing round 7 loss to Melbourne is the better form reference here, as it is most recent, with almost identical StatRating™ figures. In round 7, the Crows played nowhere near the form they displayed last week, and managed to score only 54 points for the night. Without a recognized forward structure, they struggled to kick goals, and the inclusion of Welsh seemed to pay dividends last week, after a 5 goal haul. But Welsh is just as likely to kick 1 or 2 this week, as consistency has never been a strong point for this player. Suggesting a lower score for Adelaide this week, and with their last 5 game average score being 81, it's a distinct possibility.

Carlton – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Carl Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Carlton StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
5	SUB	Freo	84	103	-19	10.6	12.5	480	424	56
6	TD	Haw	89	83	6	11.4	13.4	440	335	105
7	MCG	Rich	66	151	-85	19.0	11.0	274	547	-273
8	TD	Geel	73	143	-70	11.2	10.0	374	650	-276
9	Optus	Melb	92	110	-18	10.4	9.3	460	657	-197
Average			81	118	-37	12.5	11.2	405	523	-118

Last game at Optus Oval, 2 weeks of ordinary football, and a sell out crowd was still not enough for the Blues to notch up their 3rd win of the season last week, as they went down to Melbourne by 18 points. They trailed by 57 points at ¾ time before finally putting it together for a 6.6 to 0.3 last quarter. By then the bird had flown, and Melbourne knew they had done enough to win. Most frightening for the Blues over the past 3 weeks has been their StatRating™ Margin loss, averaging well over 200. It's this 3 game sequence, the timing of the rounds, and their opponent this week which has sparked some further investigation into their current form slump. The Table below highlights this similar set of occurrences at almost precisely the same time last year.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Carl Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Carlton StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
8	Gabba	Bris	102	140	-38	12.4	8.8	371	680	-309
9	Optus	WB	79	104	-25	13.9	12.0	360	510	-150
10	TD	Stk	88	196	-108	11.1	8.9	406	818	-412
11	AAMI	Adel	91	87	4	11.2	10.5	384	532	-148
2005										
7	MCG	Rich	66	151	-85	19.0	11.0	274	547	-273
8	TD	Geel	73	143	-70	11.2	10.0	374	650	-276
9	Optus	Melb	92	110	-18	10.4	9.3	460	657	-197

The 3 game sequence took place in rounds 8, 9 and 10 last year, and this year it took place in rounds 7, 8, and 9. At that stage of the season Carlton had managed only 3 wins for the year, while this season they have 2 ½. Last year they were given no chance in the following round, as they were coming up against Adelaide, which had just thumped Hawthorn at the MCG by 86 points. This year, they are given little hope, as they come up against Adelaide which has just thumped the Saints by 46 points...Adelaide entered the game last year on a peak, with their StatRating™ Margin of 358 against the Hawks StatRating™ of 284!?! I think you can start to get the picture here, and as incredulous as it seems, we seem to get these sorts of scenarios at least once every year. Last year it was a repeat of the Melbourne –Stkilda win. The only difference for the Crows this year is they have 5 wins on the board instead of the 3 they had last year at the same time. . Can the Blues repeat history? They have shown they are capable from bouncing back from these levels, and a better performance is on the cards this week regardless of whether they play at home or interstate. They are still managing a possession per score of 10 to 11, and as always, must get 280 to 290 possession to put enough scoreboard pressure on the opposition if they are to be any chance.

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	25	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
		Average	79	64	15	13.8	18.2	424	244	180

The Crows form at AAMI Stadium this year does not seem to match the perception of a home ground fortress. They annihilated Port Power in round 3, but have had close games in the other 3. Conditions at AAMI this year have not been the best for Adelaide, and their accuracy at goal has also let them down. An average score of 79 is not so great, considering they kicked 124 against Port, but the opposition average of 64, and average StatRating™ of just 244 is very good. The risk they run of keeping these games tight is the possibility that games they should have won may slip away. This was definitely the case in round 8, where they got beaten by Brisbane, who is not traveling well at all at the moment. Adelaide seemed to have gone full circle regarding the form reference against West Coast at the start of the season. They were frowned upon in round 1 for not being able to beat West Coast, then applauded for getting so close to the Coasters when they got on they won 8 in a row, and back to middle ground now that West Coast has failed to kick a winning score outside of Subiaco! (West Coast is proven at the Gabba!!!!)

Carlton – Form at AAMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Carl Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Carlton StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
19	AAMI	Port	81	125	-44	11.2	9.2	409	693	-284
Average			81	125	-44	11.2	9.2	409	693	-284
2004										
11	AAMI	Adel	91	87	4	11.2	10.5	384	532	-148
15	AAMI	Port	40	123	-83	15.9	10.1	188	616	-428
Average			66	105	-40	13.6	10.3	286	574	-288
2005										
4	AAMI	Port	109	109	0	8.9	9.2	551	585	-34
Average			109	109	0	8.9	9.2	551	585	-34

The Blues form at AAMI since 2003 seems pretty consistent(NOT!). A 12 and 7 goal loss, as well as a Draw and 4 point win! Scores ranging from 40 points last year to 109 in round 4 make it difficult to determine what their form at this ground will be. Have to wait and see which side turns up!

Adelaide – Bottom 8 form

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
5	TD	WB	109	140	-31	9.8	10.8	523	548	-25
8	AAMI	Bris	63	72	-9	15.9	17.6	364	227	138
Average			94	86	8	12.8	14.9	471	350	121

With Adelaide playing a Bottom 8 side rather than a Top 8 side this week, this table seemed more relevant. Again the Port Adelaide victory shines through, but not much else to suggest a big win is on the cards this week. Their average score is only 8 points better, and they have dropped 2 of their 4 games against bottom sides this year.

Carlton – Top 8 form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Carl Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Carlton StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
1	MCG	Kang	85	105	-20	10.2	12.6	459	411	48
5	SUB	Freo	84	103	-19	10.6	12.5	480	424	56
7	MCG	Rich	66	151	-85	19.0	11.0	274	547	-273
8	TD	Geel	73	143	-70	11.2	10.0	374	650	-276
9	Optus	Melb	92	110	-18	10.4	9.3	460	657	-197
Average			80	122	-42	12.3	11.1	409	538	-129

The Blues form against Top 8 sides is very clear here. Scoring averages are in fairly tight bands for most of the games, with the Blues yet to break 100 against these teams. They were 8 points shy of this figure against Melbourne, even though the margin was still 18 points. Their opposition StatRating™ average of 538 is quite high, but with Adelaide hitting a peak last week, those sorts of figures are not expected this week.

Carlton – Form at Interstate Venues 2005

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Carl Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Carlton StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
4	AAMI	Port	109	109	0	8.9	9.2	551	585	-34
5	SUB	Freo	84	103	-19	10.6	12.5	480	424	56
		Average	97	106	-9	9.8	10.9	515	504	11

This table highlights the averages for Carlton's 2 away games this year, as their form at AAMI was too inconsistent to draw any conclusions from. They have performed well on the road this year, even though it was in successive weeks. Close scores, decent StatRating™ returns, as well as good average opposition StatRating™ figures give the Blues more than a bit of hope for their upcoming encounter against Adelaide this week.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 4 - 3 since 2000 in Adelaide's favour.
- The Crows hit a peak last week against the Saints, eclipsing the Saints StatRating™ with a bigger StatRating™ Margin. They hit these levels previously, as recent as round 6 this year when they went down in the following week to Melbourne.
- The Blues are at rock bottom at the moment, and their 3 game losing streak has many similarities to their situation last year at rounds 8, 9, and 10. They went on to beat the Crows in the following week at AAMI Stadium.
- Adelaide form at AAMI is good, but certainly not bullet proof this year.
- Carlton's form at AAMI Stadium in the past has been too erratic to draw any conclusions.
- Carlton's current Interstate Form this year has been good, with a draw against Port, and 19 point loss to Fremantle.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Adelaide **\$1.20**
Carlton **\$4.50**

At the Line

Adelaide **\$1.90 (- 29.5 points)**
Carlton **\$1.90 (+29.5 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 29 points. In Carlton's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 29 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 30 points or more, then you collect.

As strange as it seems, the value in this game lies in the Blues at the line rather than a spanking from the Crows. Apart from Carlton's form against Top 8 teams, there not much too suggests that this game will have a decent margin in Adelaide's favour. In fact their own form against Bottom 8 sides is not that good, and their mini peak they registered against Stkilda last week should ensure that they come down a notch this week. Conditions at the ground will also play a big part in the final score, but certainly looking from an improved performance against Carlton this week, to provide a much better spectacle than last week.

RECOMMENDATION: Single stake Carlton at line +29.5 points at \$1.90.

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™: 390 - 440

Points Range: 83 - 95

Carlton Predicted StatRating™: 330 - 390

Points Range: 70 - 82

RESULT: Adelaide 9.17.71 (386)

Carlton 8.9.57 (198)

Close game expected here, with rain being forecast for the match. The ends of the scoring range have a 25 point worst case scenario, with the expected margin close to 12 points. The 27 point expected spread should still provide enough room to move, so the game is rate **3** stars for spread betting purposes.

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