

Geelong vs. Port Adelaide

Head to Head – Geelong vs. Port Adelaide

Round	Venue	Geel Score	Port Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Port Adelaide StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
10	AAMI	78	78	0	15.6	11.2	327	510	-183
2001									
5	SS	102	148	-46	10.3	10.3	439	534	-95
20	AAMI	69	99	-30	14.6	11.1	301	512	-211
2002									
8	AAMI	54	129	-75	15.0	11.4	307	463	-156
2003									
14	SS	70	69	1	14.6	14.6	241	328	-88
2004									
10	AAMI	112	116	-4	10.1	12.0	504	376	128
QF	AAMI	62	117	-55	16.5	10.8	267	509	-241
2005									
5	AAMI	99	95	4	12.6	14.9	451	316	135
Average		81	106	-25	13.7	12.0	355	443	-88

Port Adelaide leads Geelong 5-2 in head to head contests since 2000, with wins averaging 42 points. Both wins for Geelong have been by less than 1 goal, with a 4 point win earlier in the year, as well as a 1 point win back in 2003. While it's a commanding head to head count, it must be noted that 6 of the last 8 games between these sides have taken place at AAMI Stadium. Apart from their Qualifying Final debacle, the final winning margin since 2003 has also been less than a goal either way. Heading back to Skilled Stadium this week has the bookies scratching their heads, and prices are almost at even money for both sides. Geelong enters the game off a 54 point hiding at the hands of Sydney, while Port crushed yet another side at AAMI last week.

Geelong – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
11	TD	Coll	96	121	-25	13.3	11.4	466	430	36
12	SS	Adel	61	57	4	23.0	20.9	222	205	16
13	Gabba	Bris	47	116	-69	16.8	11.2	267	473	-206
14	TD	Haw	113	58	55	10.2	17.6	629	290	339
15	SCG	Syd	51	105	-54	17.7	11.5	266	470	-205
Average			74	91	-17	16.2	14.5	370	374	-4

After such a huge StatRating™ Margin against the Hawks in round 14, the Cats were always going to be up against it at the SCG. Add in the fact that 3 late withdrawals, namely King, Ling, and Rooke did not take their place in the side, meant they had 10 first pick players missing! Is it any wonder they got belted by 9 goals? On the Stats front, they returned figures that were a lot lower than expected, but consistent with the playing group that took the field. Their StatRating™ of 266 coupled with their StatRating™ Margin of 205 represents another bottoming out for the Cats, and they have shown that when they are at these levels, they should bounce back. The table highlights these current playing levels that Geelong has registered over the past 2 years.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
3	SCG	Syd	67	73	-6	14.5	11.4	248	385	-137
4	TD	Rich	127	78	49	9.4	13.7	562	366	195
14	SUB	WCE	49	51	-2	18.4	18.9	229	254	-26
15	TD	Coll	94	65	29	9.1	15.3	539	281	258
QF	AAMI	Port	62	117	-55	16.5	10.8	267	509	-241
SF	MCG	Ess	74	64	10	14.5	15.6	448	294	154
2005										
13	Gabba	Bris	47	116	-69	16.8	11.2	267	473	-206
14	TD	Haw	113	58	55	10.2	17.6	629	290	339
15	SCG	Syd	51	105	-54	17.7	11.5	266	470	-205

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 Geelong's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Geelong's latest form. Not only did they bounce back 3 times with these figures last year, but they also did it this year in round 13. There is a definite pattern here for the Cats in that all these figures have been registered in Interstate games in the past. They haven't necessarily been smacked each time either, but do seem to register in the 200's interstate. The round 13 game against Brisbane is almost identical to last week's game, from a scoring perspective as well as StatRating™ figures. They did bounce back against Hawthorn at Telstra Dome, and going back to Skilled Stadium this week should pose no problem for Geelong. What is a concern is their injury list. With 10 regulars out of the team, it makes it very difficult to get back, and we'll certainly watch the team list on Thursday with interest.

Port Adelaide – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
11	YP	Stk	104	81	23	12.8	11.0	327	474	-147
12	AAMI	WB	118	103	15	11.1	11.8	514	426	88
13	AAMI	Haw	188	71	117	8.5	13.9	744	295	449
14	TD	Coll	71	102	-31	11.9	10.0	454	522	-67
15	AAMI	Melb	137	75	62	8.8	13.3	588	287	302
Average			124	86	38	10.6	12.0	526	401	125

Port Adelaide didn't allow the Dees any space last week, and the result was well and truly over at half time. It's been a feature of Port's form at AAMI this season, and their last 3 games at AAMI have produced StatRating™ figures of 514, 744 and 588! While their StatRating™ of 588 can be considered a peak, their StatRating™ Margin of 302 confirms it. They also were extremely efficient with their use of the ball, as their possession per score of 8.8 indicates. On average a score every 9 possessions for the game! This use of the ball was similar to their game against Hawthorn the week before, and that was definitely a peak performance. The Table below highlights Port "peak" performances over the past 3 years, and how they have fared in the following week.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
3	AAMI	Haw	128	71	57	8.8	17.4	599	206	393
4	Optus	Carl	114	84	30	11.5	10.0	392	532	-140
8	AAMI	Kang	103	49	54	11.0	21.1	527	223	304
9	TD	Ess	146	96	50	9.7	10.6	558	407	151
11	AAMI	Freo	112	63	49	10.4	14.9	586	262	324
12	YP	Stk	99	57	42	14.9	14.1	335	318	17
2004										
9	AAMI	Rich	128	50	78	11.4	20.2	491	203	289
10	AAMI	Geel	116	112	4	12.0	10.1	376	504	-128
15	AAMI	Carl	123	40	83	10.1	15.9	616	188	428
16	MCG	Haw	105	53	52	9.8	15.2	502	284	218
20	MS	WB	147	61	86	10.9	20.4	487	226	262
21	MCG	Coll	107	70	37	12.0	12.5	401	391	10
2005										
13	AAMI	Haw	188	71	117	8.5	13.9	744	295	449
14	TD	Coll	71	102	-31	11.9	10.0	454	522	-67
15	AAMI	Melb	137	75	62	8.8	13.3	588	287	302

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 Port's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Port Adelaide's latest form. On face value, these figures look very good. They have 6 wins from their last 7 games at these levels, and all but one was a winning game interstate in the following week. The clues may hide in the possession per score column. Whenever Port has used the ball super efficiently, (i.e. under 9.0), they have not fared so well. Round 4 2003 is one such example, where they won the game by 30 points, yet lost on StatRating™ by 140. The only other time was round 14 against Collingwood, in a game which they lost by 31 points. They may be working their way back to their premiership form, but the Collingwood game was only 2 weeks back, and they fell at that hurdle. Considering they will have to travel again this week, odds are they may fall here as well.

Geelong – Form at Skilled Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
2	SS	Kang	71	94	-23	11.6	10.6	430	499	-69
4	SS	Melb	90	44	46	12.6	19.2	390	255	135
6	SS	Bris	78	92	-14	17.0	11.1	235	502	-267
10	SS	Adel	59	76	-17	13.0	13.7	262	351	-90
14	SS	Port	70	69	1	14.6	14.6	241	328	-88
16	SS	WB	81	99	-18	12.2	13.4	436	365	71
20	SS	WCE	63	63	0	15.4	16.8	291	255	36
22	SS	Stk	84	65	19	11.3	15.1	362	365	-4
		Average	75	75	0	13.5	14.3	331	365	-34
2004										
6	SS	Adel	101	58	43	9.8	14.2	481	318	163
8	SS	Melb	101	87	14	12.5	10.4	360	617	-257
12	SS	Kang	94	84	10	11.8	9.7	374	445	-70
13	SS	Bris	92	65	27	11.7	12.8	434	369	66
16	SS	Syd	77	62	15	11.5	14.0	339	286	53
18	SS	Stk	101	94	7	11.0	15.5	399	304	95
20	SS	Freo	75	25	50	10.6	26.8	536	90	446
22	SS	Haw	123	58	65	9.6	20.3	758	177	581
		Average	96	67	29	11.1	15.4	460	326	136
2005										
6	SS	WB	108	73	35	12.0	17.4	443	264	179
9	SS	Kang	146	61	85	10.7	13.0	534	292	242
10	SS	Freo	82	91	-9	9.7	14.8	476	312	164
12	SS	Adel	61	57	4	23.0	20.9	222	205	16
		Average	99	71	28	13.8	16.5	419	268	151

The Cats are still playing well at Skilled Stadium this year, and are on par with last season's averages, where they didn't drop a game. You need to go back to 2002 to find a team that has scored over 100 points against Geelong at Skilled Stadium, a fact that always gives them a great winning chance at home. The opposition team's StatRating™ has also been kept to a minimum this season, with an average of 268. With their backline always playing so well at home, it's their forward line which will come under scrutiny this week. And that's where their midfield and Forward injury concerns have been in the last month. They have shown they are capable of kicking big scores at home, with last year's average at 96, and this year at 99, but are not capable of these scores with their current playing group. Ling, Johnson, Playfair, Harley and King will go a long way to fixing this problem if they play this week.

Port Adelaide – Form away from AAMI Stadium this year.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
1	SUB	Freo	53	88	-35	15.2	14.0	276	364	-88
6	TD	Rich	67	123	-56	13.1	11.6	367	507	-140
8	SCG	Syd	45	69	-24	17.4	11.2	230	375	-145
10	SUB	WCE	62	179	-117	16.8	8.1	215	793	-579
11	YP	Stk	104	81	23	12.8	11.0	327	474	-147
14	TD	Coll	71	102	-31	11.9	10.0	454	522	-67
		Average	67	107	-40	14.5	11.0	311	506	-195

Port has only played at Skilled Stadium once in the past 3 years, and on that occasion lost by 1 point (70 vs. 69). To get a better guide of what their form may look like this week, we've put together a table showing Port's form away from AAMI Stadium. And it doesn't look real flash. 6 games away from home and only 1 win amongst them. They beat Stkilda by 23 points at York Park, but still managed to lose on StatRating™ by 147 points. It was in that game that Port kicked over 100 points, yet their average away from home is only 67 points. Their best game so far away from home came in round 14 against Collingwood, where they had a StatRating™ of 454, their highest so far away from home. Port did have a long injury list at the start of the season, but these losses have been spread evenly across the season so far, so that point is not valid. All up, it doesn't read well for Port Adelaide this week.

Geelong – Top 8 form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
1	MCG	Rich	160	98	62	10.1	12.3	633	382	251
2	SUB	WCE	62	84	-22	15.0	12.8	306	382	-76
3	MCG	Melb	66	114	-48	12.9	11.9	442	478	-36
9	SS	Kang	146	61	85	10.7	13.0	534	292	242
12	SS	Adel	61	57	4	23.0	20.9	222	205	16
13	Gabba	Bris	47	116	-69	16.8	11.2	267	473	-206
15	SCG	Syd	51	105	-54	17.7	11.5	266	470	-205
		Average	85	91	-6	15.2	13.4	381	383	-2

The Cats have been a hit and miss proposition this year against Top 8 sides. Big losses, big wins and a tight match in between! They have lost all 3 Interstate games, and have won 3 of their 4 Melbourne games, including 2 at Skilled Stadium. Their averages in Victoria are 108 to 83, with StatRating™ levels of 458 339. Difficult to assess this form as we see it, but the positive is definitely a home game against a Top 8 side, and this also happens to be a traveling interstate team.

Port Adelaide – Top 8 form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
2	AAMI	Bris	75	73	2	15.8	15.3	356	301	54
3	AAMI	Adel	56	124	-68	17.3	10.4	219	644	-424
5	AAMI	Geel	95	99	-4	14.9	12.6	316	451	-135
6	TD	Rich	67	123	-56	13.1	11.6	367	507	-140
7	AAMI	Kang	119	72	47	11.6	10.9	459	377	81
8	SCG	Syd	45	69	-24	17.4	11.2	230	375	-145
10	SUB	WCE	62	179	-117	16.8	8.1	215	793	-579
15	AAMI	Melb	137	75	62	8.8	13.3	588	287	302
Average			82	102	-20	14.4	11.7	344	467	-123

And we thought Geelong's Top 8 form was hard to read!?! Port had the unfortunate luck of playing 7 of the current Top 8 sides in the first 10 weeks of the year. Their record is 3 from 8, and 5 of these games were held at AAMI Stadium. To date, their average losing margin against Top 8 sides away from home is 66 points, helped largely due to the 117 point drubbing at the hands of West Coast. 2 wins in the 1st 10 weeks against these sides was not good, but they were depleted with injuries during this period, so we will give them some concession. No injury concerns this week, so a very good guide to see if Port are in fact back!

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 5 - 2 (and a draw) since 2000 in Port's favour, but 6 of these games were played at AAMI Stadium.
- The Cats effort against Sydney last week was similar to their performance against Brisbane 3 weeks back, and they were able to bounce back from that loss. In all they have had 4 games at these levels in the past 2 years for 4 wins.
- Port Adelaide hit peak levels last week against Melbourne, and do not have a great record in the following week with these current playing levels.
- Geelong's form at Skilled Stadium has been first rat over the past 2 years, and they've kept oppositions averages down to the 70 mark.
- Port's form away from home this year has been terrible, with only 1 win from 6 games.
- Geelong has won 3 of their 4 Melbourne games against Top 8 sides this year.
- Port Adelaide has lost all 3 interstate games against Top 8 sides this year.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Geelong **\$1.90**
Port Adelaide **\$1.90**

The Bookies may have these teams even on the scoreboard, but Geelong has the better form going in this week. They've been able to bounce back at these levels on many occasions and have a good home record. While Port Adelaide may be getting back to full strength, their form away from home has been poor, and they did register a peak performance last week, which can't be good when traveling. The final verdict will be with the ins and outs on Thursday evening, and who will actually line up come Saturday. If all goes to plan, Geelong should win.

RECOMMENDATION: Single stake Geelong to win 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.

Geelong Predicted StatRating™: 420 - 470

Points Range: 88 -100

Port Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 310 – 370

Points Range: 67 - 79

Final Result: Geelong 18.18.126 def Port Adelaide 7.5.47

This game could develop into a close result as previous years suggest, but there many stats in Geelong's favour. There is a 3 point buffer that we need to give up, but the predicted margin suggests there is enough of a buffer to get a result. Geelong should keep Port's score down, and all rests on their forward structure this week. With this in mind the game is rated **4** stars for spread betting purposes.

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