

Western Bulldogs vs. West Coast

Head to Head – Western Bulldogs vs. West Coast

Round	Venue	WB Score	WCE Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	West Coast StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
8	SUB	102	108	-6	11.3	9.5	488	712	-224
2001									
9	SUB	125	77	48	8.6	13.0	583	354	229
2002									
3	SUB	81	113	-32	11.2	10.5	448	440	9
18	Optus	142	91	51	10.4	13.5	588	348	240
2003									
11	SUB	124	124	0	10.6	10.4	502	528	-26
2004									
1	TD	137	144	-7	7.8	8.2	730	746	-16
18	SUB	57	106	-49	16.6	11.4	223	482	-259
2005									
4	SUB	107	143	-36	14.8	10.0	311	668	-357
Average		109	113	-4	11.4	10.8	484	535	-51

Since 2000, West Coast have notched up 5 wins from 8 games against the Western Bulldogs, including a draw in round 11 2003. That's a pretty impressive head to head record, but they have been advantaged by the fact that 6 of the 8 games have been played at Subiaco. A feature of the games played between these 2 teams is a free flowing, high scoring affair, with at least 1 side kicking over 100 in each game. Considering the form that both sides have been in lately, there's nothing to suggest it won't be another high scoring game here. The Doggies have been giant killers in their last 2, but come up against the Top team in the competition this week. The Bookies have West Coast a firm favourite, even though they are playing interstate.

Western Bulldogs – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
14	MCG	Stk	98	116	-18	12.7	11.7	417	454	-36
15	SUB	Freo	92	145	-53	11.8	10.2	423	499	-75
16	AAMI	Adel	35	109	-74	31.7	11.5	110	549	-438
17	TD	Geel	133	98	35	11.5	11.8	559	423	136
18	TD	Bris	151	123	28	9.9	9.1	587	548	38
Average			102	118	-16	15.5	10.9	419	494	-75

It Doggies have appreciated being back on terra firma, as they had traveled 4 weeks out of 5 between rounds 12 and 16, and what a difference it has made. Add to the mix a sprinkling of quality players back from injury, and all of a sudden, they are playing exciting football. Looking back at their previous 5 weeks, their opposition StatRating™ has remained fairly constant around the high 400's and 500's, but it is their own StatRating™ that has risen considerably in the past 2 weeks. A 559 followed up by a 587 is well into peak performance territory for the Bulldogs, as is their possession per score of 9.9. The only variable that may indicate that a peak is not present is the StatRating™ Margin of 38. The Doggies have been at these levels a few times this season, and the table below highlights their current playing levels as well as the result in the following week.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
1	MCG	Coll	112	80	32	10.8	13.8	566	326	240
2	TD	Melb	111	137	-26	9.4	8.4	639	659	-20
5	TD	Adel	140	109	31	10.8	9.8	548	523	25
6	SS	Geel	73	108	-35	17.4	12.0	264	443	-179
7	Gabba	Bris	110	87	23	10.4	10.4	575	498	77
8	TD	Kang	118	92	26	11.3	11.1	442	459	-17
17	TD	Geel	133	98	35	11.5	11.8	559	423	136
18	TD	Bris	151	123	28	9.9	9.1	587	548	38
18	TD	Bris	151	123	28	9.9	9.1	587	548	38

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 the Bulldog's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Western Bulldog's latest form. There are 4 games that meet the current playing levels, with the Doggies winning 2 of these 4. Round 2 against Melbourne was a particularly good effort as they were coming off a StatRating™ Margin of 240. Their loss in round 6 against Geelong was compounded by an injury to Luke Darcy, which may have unsettled the structure of the side. That was by far their worst performance at these levels, and aside from that game, their average StatRating™ in the following week is 556 to the opposition's average of 555. Will certainly be a chance if they can get to those levels this week.

West Coast – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
14	SUB	Carl	139	62	77	11.0	13.8	474	312	162
15	TD	Kang	101	97	4	13.0	12.1	455	461	-6
16	SUB	Bris	111	88	23	13.1	11.6	396	372	25
17	SCG	Syd	67	88	-21	13.6	11.7	330	395	-65
18	SUB	Haw	97	49	48	8.6	23.1	733	165	568
Average			103	77	26	11.9	14.4	478	341	137

The Eagles came back from the SCG an angry side last week, and Hawthorn became the proverbial lamb to the slaughter. Although the final margin was only 48 points, it could easily have been double that, as the Eagles were wasteful in front of goal. Their score of 12.25 could have been 25.12, which still equates to 30 more scoring shots than the Hawks 7.7. Their StatRating™ of 733 and StatRating™ Margin of 568 represent an almighty peak, and certainly well above any figures they had returned in the previous 4 weeks. These figures are not new to the Eagles as they have registered them many times in the past 2 years. The Table below highlights their current playing levels, as well as the performance in the following week.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
8	SUB	Syd	124	97	27	8.4	12.3	654	334	320
9	TD	Stk	68	169	-101	10.9	7.6	348	827	-479
12	SUB	Adel	108	76	32	8.7	13.9	607	303	304
13	MO	Kang	75	108	-33	12.6	9.8	367	523	-157
2005										
4	SUB	WB	143	107	36	10.0	14.8	668	311	357
5	Gabba	Bris	157	84	73	8.6	10.7	756	476	280
5	Gabba	Bris	157	84	73	8.6	10.7	756	476	280
6	SUB	Syd	104	59	45	11.3	13.6	442	331	111
10	SUB	Port	179	62	117	8.1	16.8	793	215	579
11	MCG	Rich	105	103	2	10.8	11.4	535	499	37
18	SUB	Haw	97	49	48	8.6	23.1	733	165	568

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 West Coast's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Eagles latest form. They have been at these levels 5 times in the past 2 years for 3 wins and 2 losses. Both losses came in 2004 in away games, while their 3 wins have been registered this year. Looks like an improvement from the Eagles this season, but it must be noted that 2 of their wins came between rounds 4, 5 and 6 at the Gabba and Subiaco. The Gabba has been like a second home for the Eagles in the past, as they have always played well there. The form that interests us is the round 11 win against Richmond. Figures from their 117 point win against Port are very similar to last week's effort, and considering they travel back to the MCG again this week, it represents a good form line. They were able to grind out a win that day, but only just. StatRating™ levels returned in that game are in line with the Bulldogs current form line as well.

Western Bulldogs – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
2	MCG	Coll	97	106	-9	9.6	8.5	523	637	-114
3	MCG	Melb	87	97	-10	11.1	7.8	422	781	-359
4	MCG	Haw	109	97	12	11.0	12.0	555	408	146
8	MCG	Rich	82	105	-23	9.8	10.2	573	492	81
12	MCG	Stk	103	80	23	11.9	11.7	437	479	-42
Average			96	97	-1	10.7	10.0	502	559	-57
2005										
1	MCG	Coll	112	80	32	10.8	13.8	566	326	240
14	MCG	Stk	98	116	-18	12.7	11.7	417	454	-36
Average			105	98	7	11.7	12.7	492	390	102

The Bulldogs have played 7 games at the MCG in the past 2 years, and have a 4-3 record here. Again the average StatRating™ they return indicates a score close to the 100 mark, but it is also high for the opposition. Considering they had a very average year in 2004, it's obviously a ground they play well at, with their biggest losing margin at just 23 points. Should be advantaged playing an interstate side here this week.

West Coast – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
7	MCG	Melb	73	122	-49	16.2	10.1	297	563	-266
Average			73	122	-49	16.2	10.1	297	563	-266
2005										
9	MCG	Coll	95	118	-23	14.7	11.3	320	507	-187
11	MCG	Rich	105	103	2	10.8	11.4	535	499	37
13	MCG	Melb	105	90	15	10.8	12.1	511	479	32
Average			102	104	-2	12.1	11.6	455	495	-39

West Coast has played just 4 games at the MCG in the past 2 years, and has a 2-2 record. While their games against Richmond and Melbourne produced 2 wins and high StatRating™ figures for the Eagles, the constant in all 4 games has been the opposition StatRating™, which is sitting at the 500 mark. This confirms the StatRating™ figures from the current form line of both sides, and given weather conditions are fine, we should have a high scoring affair.

West Coast – Interstate Form in 2005

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2005										
1	AAMI	Adel	64	53	11	16.2	16.2	339	265	74
5	Gabba	Bris	157	84	73	8.6	10.7	756	476	280
7	YP	Haw	96	77	19	12.5	20.7	440	237	203
9	MCG	Coll	95	118	-23	14.7	11.3	320	507	-187
11	MCG	Rich	105	103	2	10.8	11.4	535	499	37
13	MCG	Melb	105	90	15	10.8	12.1	511	479	32
15	TD	Kang	101	97	4	13.0	12.1	455	461	-6
17	SCG	Syd	67	88	-21	13.6	11.7	330	395	-65
		Average	99	89	10	12.5	13.3	461	415	46

The Eagles have played 8 games away from Subiaco this year, with a 6-2 record. Apart from the round 5 win against Brisbane at the Gabba, which has already been discussed, the final winning margin has not been far away from the 3 goal mark. When all 8 games are averaged out, the StatRating™ figures are lower than all other tables suggest, but more importantly, it demonstrates that the game should be close, and perhaps West Coast should not be a short priced favourite in this game.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 5 – 2 and a draw since 2000 in West Coast's favour, but 6 of the last 8 games have been played at Subiaco.
- Western Bulldogs produced a high StatRating™ against Brisbane last week, their second 500+ in succession. From these figures this season they have a 2-2 record in the following week.
- West Coast recorded a massive peak against Hawthorn last week, similar to their form against Port Adelaide earlier in the year. They got home by 2 points against Richmond in the following week, and their record is 1-2 in away games with these figures.
- The Bulldogs form at the MCG is 4-3 since 2004, and play well here.
- West Coast's form at the MCG is 2-2 since 2004, and high scoring is a feature of their games here.
- West Coast's biggest winning margin in 8 away games this year has been 19 points. Average winning margin in away games is 10 points.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Western Bulldogs **\$2.53**
West Coast **\$1.52**

At the Line

Western Bulldogs **\$1.90 (+ 14.5 points)**
West Coast **\$1.90 (- 14.5 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 West Coast (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 14 points. In the Doggies case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 14 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 15 points or more, then you collect.

Can the Western Bulldogs keep the juggernaut going, or will the Eagles finally put an end to the Finals Fairy Tale that awaits the Bulldogs? The Eagles only won by 48 points last week, but recorded huge StatRating™ figures which in turn are usually associated with an average performance in the following week. Given they are playing away from Subiaco, it does make the task all the more harder this week. The Bulldogs have rated high in consecutive weeks, but have won twice at these levels this year. There's every indication that the Bulldogs will push the Eagles this week and given we have the 14 point start at hand, this represents great value in the game.

RECOMMENDATION: Single stake Western Bulldogs at line +14.5 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.

Western Bulldogs Predicted StatRating™: 480 - 540

Points Range: 103 -115

West Coast Predicted StatRating™: 450 – 510

Points Range: 95 -107

FINAL RESULT: Western Bulldogs 21.14.140 (651) d West Coast 14.13.97 (458)

Weather is all important for this game, as rain would bring back the totals significantly. Figures suggest a close game, with the Doggies just getting their noses in front. The Spread should come in close to the line margin, and represents a good return should the scores match our prediction. The game is rated **3** stars for spread betting purposes.

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