

# Essendon vs. Melbourne

## Head to Head – Essendon vs. Melbourne

Round	Venue	Ess Score	Melb Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Melbourne StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
9	MCG	106	93	13	10.2	11.7	567	574	-7
GF	MCG	135	75	60	8.2	12.9	883	304	580
<b>2001</b>									
8	MCG	85	79	6	11.8	12.4	391	453	-61
<b>2002</b>									
13	TD	120	108	12	10.2	10.8	469	603	-134
<b>2003</b>									
2	MCG	112	75	37	11.7	11.5	409	503	-95
17	MCG	88	71	17	14.0	13.7	406	351	55
<b>2004</b>									
13	MCG	69	95	-26	14.9	10.8	328	508	-180
EF	MCG	104	99	5	11.5	12.9	469	441	28
<b>2005</b>									
1	MCG	57	103	-46	19.4	11.3	268	505	-237
<b>Average</b>		<b>97</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>-5</b>

It seems Melbourne has finally got over the dominance of the Bombers after a number of lean years against them. They were always competitive on the stats sheet without winning, but the last few games have turned around. In fact the Bombers have consistently had StatRating™ figures in the 400's against Melbourne, and it's caught up to them. The Dees must win against Essendon this week to play off in the finals, and enter this game as warm favourites with the Bookies.

## Essendon – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2005</b>										
17	Gabba	Bris	101	114	-13	9.7	11.4	587	482	105
18	TD	Geel	107	94	13	10.7	11.3	413	584	-171
19	TD	Syd	98	118	-20	11.8	10.2	330	480	-150
20	MCG	Haw	104	117	-13	12.3	11.5	449	496	-47
21	MCG	Carl	182	83	99	8.2	9.9	806	536	270
<b>Average</b>			<b>118</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>2</b>

After some good performances between rounds 17 and 19, the Bombers had a shocker against Hawthorn. It's no surprise that Dustin Fletcher missed that game, and Hawthorn's conversion inside 50 jumped up for that game. Fletcher averages 14 rebounds from defensive 50, and it was sorely missed in that game. But last week was a freak show. The Bombers incredible score of 182 surely signaled a peak performance, and the StatRating™ of 806 was their highest since 2000. Carlton's StatRating™ of 536 was also the highest recorded StatRating™ for a side that has lost by 100 points. These last few weeks have been crazy from a ratings perspective with new records being set every week. Given their enormous StatRating™ last week, this week should present a few problems for the Bombers. The table below highlights the Bombers current playing levels over the past 2 years, as well as form for the following week.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
4	MCG	Carl	117	80	37	9.0	13.0	633	338	295
5	MCG	Coll	112	79	33	11.5	12.3	444	381	63
8	AAMI	Adel	135	84	51	7.1	10.0	784	440	344
9	TD	Geel	97	120	-23	10.6	9.4	493	606	-114
11	MCG	Haw	154	80	74	8.3	12.7	639	395	244
12	TD	Bris	96	162	-66	11.5	8.7	435	770	-335
21	TS	Syd	90	110	-20	7.6	8.9	592	448	144
22	TD	WB	113	96	17	11.8	12.8	468	436	32
<b>2005</b>										
5	MCG	Coll	83	69	14	11.4	17.8	527	259	268
6	TD	Bris	88	136	-48	11.3	10.3	444	575	-131
21	MCG	Carl	182	83	99	8.2	9.9	806	536	270

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 Essendon's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Essendon's latest form. There are 5 games that meet the current playing levels, with 2 wins and 3 losses in the past 2 years. Their wins in round 5 and round 22 in 2004 were against and undermanned Collingwood and a lowly Western Bulldogs. Round 21 was more of a positive indicator for the Bombers as even though they rated high, they lost the game but won on StatRating™. In defense of the Bombers, they have been able to score quite well in the following week, but also allow their opposition to score well. Their StatRating™ in the following week is around the 400's mark, which is consistent with their head to head form against Melbourne.

## Melbourne – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2005</b>										
17	SUB	Freo	76	101	-25	14.6	11.6	268	441	-173
18	MCG	Stk	88	176	-88	11.9	8.8	413	759	-346
19	AAMI	Adel	46	100	-54	25.6	9.0	129	764	-636
20	SS	Geel	100	99	1	9.1	12.6	538	325	214
21	MCG	WB	109	105	4	9.9	12.3	514	407	106
<b>Average</b>			<b>84</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>-32</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>-167</b>

Have Melbourne finally turned the corner after a horror 7 week spell? It certainly looks like it from the table above, with their last 2 weeks producing some good wins. Both have been come from behind victories after looking well beaten during the match. It's great to see their possession per score has come down to winning levels in the past 2 games, as they had averaged these levels week in week at the start of the season. Their average in the first 12 weeks was 10.3, and then it plummeted to 14.0 in the 7 week losing period. To keep up 500+ StatRating™ figures in consecutive weeks is a good sign, with no reason why they couldn't do it for a 3<sup>rd</sup> week. The table below highlights these figures for the Dees over the current season.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2005</b>										
11	MO	Kang	116	80	36	10.1	12.4	504	444	60
12	MCG	Coll	117	72	45	10.2	14.3	571	357	214
20	SS	Geel	100	99	1	9.1	12.6	538	325	214
21	MCG	WB	109	105	4	9.9	12.3	514	407	106
21	MCG	WB	109	105	4	9.9	12.3	514	407	106

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 Melbourne's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Melbourne's latest form. These are the closest 2 games during the year that match Melbourne's form from last week, and they did register wins in both games. Given the Bombers expected fall this week, this table is more about Melbourne's ability to keep their current StatRating™ levels this week. Both games have been played at the MCG, with good StatRating™ Margin levels in the following week. They have kept the opposition StatRating™ to 400's levels, so it looks as though it is all starting to fall into place.

## Essendon – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
2	MCG	Melb	112	75	37	11.7	11.5	409	503	-95
3	MCG	Carl	94	105	-11	10.8	8.9	480	674	-194
5	MCG	Coll	147	81	66	9.7	16.0	580	294	286
7	MCG	Rich	42	84	-42	15.4	10.3	300	467	-167
8	MCG	Haw	106	53	53	10.0	21.4	622	164	458
17	MCG	Melb	88	71	17	14.0	13.7	406	351	55
18	MCG	Carl	90	56	34	12.0	12.9	475	381	94
20	MCG	Rich	92	53	39	11.8	17.9	508	285	223
22	MCG	Coll	67	83	-16	12.9	12.6	364	412	-48
		<b>Average</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>2004</b>										
4	MCG	Carl	117	80	37	9.0	13.0	633	338	295
5	MCG	Coll	112	79	33	11.5	12.3	444	381	63
6	MCG	Syd	108	98	10	9.6	11.1	522	433	89
11	MCG	Haw	154	80	74	8.3	12.7	639	395	244
13	MCG	Melb	69	95	-26	14.9	10.8	328	508	-180
15	MCG	Rich	155	77	78	9.7	14.5	590	393	197
19	MCG	Carl	57	74	-17	16.6	11.2	265	464	-199
20	MCG	Coll	121	87	34	9.9	14.6	525	370	155
EF	MCG	Melb	104	99	5	11.5	12.9	469	441	28
SF	MCG	Geel	64	74	-10	15.6	14.5	294	448	-154
		<b>Average</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>2005</b>										
1	MCG	Melb	57	103	-46	19.4	11.3	268	505	-237
2	MCG	Carl	106	110	-4	14.5	9.4	290	587	-297
3	MCG	Haw	77	75	2	11.3	15.8	496	297	198
5	MCG	Coll	83	69	14	11.4	17.8	527	259	268
15	MCG	Rich	66	92	-26	14.0	14.5	373	324	49
16	MCG	Coll	131	105	26	11.9	9.7	404	538	-134
20	MCG	Haw	104	117	-13	12.3	11.5	449	496	-47
21	MCG	Carl	182	83	99	8.2	9.9	806	536	270
		<b>Average</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>9</b>

The Bombers still continue to score well at this venue, but with one noticeable difference from last season. There have been 4 teams this year that have kicked over 100 against Essendon at the MCG. Prior to this season, the Bombers had gone 27 consecutive games with only Carlton in round 3 2003 being the only side to have accomplished this feat. 27 games for only 1 team. This season its 8 games for 4 teams. It's probably the best indicator so far that the Bombers are on the way down from previous seasons, even though their average is up over 100. Prior to last week, their season average at the MCG was sitting at 89.

## Melbourne – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
1	MCG	Haw	106	100	6	12.0	10.8	426	539	-113
2	MCG	Ess	75	112	-37	11.5	11.7	503	409	95
6	MCG	WCE	94	127	-33	12.0	8.3	410	618	-208
7	MCG	Port	111	84	27	10.6	13.7	567	387	180
8	MCG	Rich	103	112	-9	11.8	10.5	465	523	-58
9	MCG	Freo	71	101	-30	16.0	14.4	368	326	42
11	MCG	Coll	77	133	-56	10.1	9.9	512	543	-31
13	MCG	Stk	136	94	42	10.0	11.7	528	403	125
15	MCG	Kang	94	101	-7	14.3	13.2	414	371	43
16	MCG	Haw	106	113	-7	9.5	10.5	567	487	80
17	MCG	Ess	71	88	-17	13.7	14.0	351	406	-55
19	MCG	Geel	45	84	-39	16.6	9.9	217	527	-310
22	MCG	Syd	60	94	-34	14.9	11.6	228	422	-194
		<b>Average</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>-31</b>
<b>2004</b>										
1	MCG	Haw	70	119	-49	13.3	9.4	398	572	-173
2	MCG	Rich	135	76	59	9.1	19.6	762	219	543
3	MCG	WB	97	87	10	7.8	11.1	781	422	359
4	MCG	Port	124	71	53	9.2	14.1	596	311	284
6	MCG	Carl	160	55	105	10.6	19.7	632	259	373
7	MCG	WCE	122	73	49	10.1	16.2	563	297	266
9	MCG	Kang	96	78	18	10.7	13.0	475	399	76
12	MCG	Coll	82	73	9	12.4	13.9	395	344	51
13	MCG	Ess	95	69	26	10.8	14.9	508	328	180
15	MCG	Stk	146	89	57	9.4	11.0	543	409	134
17	MCG	Rich	126	70	56	9.6	13.5	601	342	259
18	MCG	Haw	107	63	44	10.4	17.2	680	274	406
EF	MCG	Ess	99	104	-5	12.9	11.5	441	469	-28
		<b>Average</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>2005</b>										
1	MCG	Ess	103	57	46	11.3	19.4	505	268	237
3	MCG	Geel	114	66	48	11.9	12.9	478	442	36
6	MCG	Freo	129	143	-14	8.5	9.8	669	541	128
7	MCG	Adel	78	54	24	12.2	16.3	444	319	125
8	MCG	Haw	89	128	-39	11.2	11.0	448	547	-99
12	MCG	Coll	117	72	45	10.2	14.3	571	357	214
13	MCG	WCE	90	105	-15	12.1	10.8	479	511	-32
18	MCG	Stk	88	176	-88	11.9	8.8	413	759	-346
21	MCG	WB	109	105	4	9.9	12.3	514	407	106
		<b>Average</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>41</b>

After a great 2004 season, and a good start to the year, Melbourne's form at the MCG deteriorated into just plain awful. Considering a couple of hefty losses here this season, they have a remarkable 102 to 101 average. If they truly have turned the corner this season, then there's no reason why it shouldn't be reflected in a big win this week, as they have done before in the early part of the year. StatRating™ average of 502 is still very high considering the year they have had. Looking to better that figure this week, weather permitting.

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 7 – 2 since 2000 in Essendon's favour, but 2 of the last 3 games have been won by Melbourne.
- Bombers hit a peak against Carlton last week, and their average losing margin has been 46 points in the past at these levels.
- Melbourne continued on with their good form from the previous week and finally looks like they are back on track.
- The Bombers form at the MCG has been good this year, but has shown signs they are tapering off.
- Melbourne's form at the MCG has nose dived this season compared to last year, but still have an average StatRating™ of 502. Should improve on that figure this week.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

**Essendon**      **\$2.45**  
**Melbourne**     **\$1.57**

At the Line

**Essendon**      **\$1.90 (+ 12.5 points)**  
**Melbourne**     **\$1.90 (- 12.5 points)**

\* For the latest odds on offer visit [www.sportsacumen.com](http://www.sportsacumen.com)

At the line signifies that you will be able to get a better price on Melbourne (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 12 points. In Essendon's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 12 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 13 points or more, then you collect.

It was a huge StatRating™ returned by the Bombers last week, and considering the amount of young players in that side, you wouldn't expect the same consistency in playing style this week. The Dees look to have finally found form against this season, with a come from behind win against Geelong (who ended up giving West Coast a hiding in the following week) and the form side of the competition in the Western Bulldogs. We're looking for a decent win here for Melbourne, and the 2 goal head start should not cause any issues for the Dees

**RECOMMENDATION:** Single stake Melbourne at line -12.5 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.

Essendon Predicted StatRating™: 400 - 460

Points Range: 85 -97

Melbourne Predicted StatRating™: 520 – 580

Points Range: 111 -123

**Final Result: Essendon 12.13.85 (404)**

**Melbourne 13.17.95 (623)**

We're looking for at least a 4 goal win here by Melbourne based on historical figures from both sides. Considering the Bombers average losing score at the levels has been 46 points, we'd be stiff not to get a decent collect even with a 15 points head start. The game is rated **5** stars for spread betting purposes.

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