

# Melbourne vs. Adelaide

## Head to Head – Melbourne vs. Adelaide

Round	Venue	Melb Score	Adel Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Adelaide StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
11	AAMI	70	105	-35	11.4	11.0	449	535	-86
<b>2001</b>									
2	AAMI	83	80	3	13.4	12.7	380	450	-70
17	MCG	84	100	-16	14.0	11.6	343	412	-70
<b>2002</b>									
12	Optus	98	73	25	10.9	13.0	562	431	131
SF	MCG	118	130	-12	6.7	8.9	690	609	81
<b>2003</b>									
12	AAMI	65	138	-73	18.6	10.5	220	505	-285
<b>2004</b>									
14	AAMI	73	145	-72	11.6	9.7	355	661	-306
<b>Average</b>		<b>84</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>-87</b>

The Adelaide Crows have had a distinct advantage over Melbourne since 2000, with 5 wins in the last 7 games. Even in Melbourne's "good" years (2000, 2002 and 2004), the Crows have still managed to win 3 out of the 4 games contested. Most recently, they have handed out football lessons to the Dees, with almost identical game scores over the past 2 years. Two 12 goal drubbings at AAMI Stadium still resonate in the minds of Melbourne players, and they need to get this monkey off their back. In 2003, they entered the game with a 3-8 record, and an average losing Margin of 39 points. No surprises here. In 2004, they were a lot better prepared, but came up against a rejuvenated Adelaide, which had just sacked Gary Ayers, and appointed Neil Craig. Bombed out again! Melbourne's form is just as good this year, and there doesn't seem to be any surprises forthcoming out of Adelaide just yet. With a home game at stake this time, it's no wonder the Dees are starting a firm favourite.

## 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>										
2	TD	WB	137	111	26	8.4	9.4	659	639	20
3	MCG	Geel	114	66	48	11.9	12.9	478	442	36
4	TD	Stk	104	151	-47	8.8	8.9	566	688	-122
5	SCG	Syd	94	60	34	10.6	12.0	444	425	19
6	MCG	Freo	129	143	-14	8.5	9.8	669	541	128
<b>Average</b>			<b>116</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>16</b>

Many would have penciled in a win for Melbourne last week, following the Dockers poor effort against Richmond at the MCG two weeks back. But they got the shock of their lives when the Dockers came out and kicked 7 goals in the first quarter, and then kept it going for the rest of the match. While the Dees looked disappointing, they still managed to kick 20 goals in a losing side. Their efficiency this year has been first rate, and their playing style is the exact opposite of the much maligned Sydney. In the last 4 weeks, their average possessions per game have been 260, while the opposition is at 319. On average 59 less possessions per game, yet 2 wins and an average score of 110! Because of this efficient playing style, you're almost guaranteed the opposition will follow suit, and the average of 10.6 in the table above shows we're always in for a great game no matter who the Dees play. The Demons did actually rate higher than Fremantle on the weekend, a statistic which has served them well over the past 5 years. It doesn't come up that often for Melbourne, but when it does, it's a good sign!

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>										
1	MCG	Rich	92	94	-2	10.1	11.5	615	445	170
2	MCG	Kang	145	120	25	10.4	8.1	596	819	-223
3	SCG	Syd	114	126	-12	10.7	9.8	674	563	111
4	MCG	Stk	165	75	90	8.2	13.8	699	391	308
17	MCG	Kang	102	103	-1	9.4	8.1	702	665	37
18	MCG	Syd	125	99	26	10.3	11.6	584	458	127
<b>2002</b>										
13	TD	Ess	108	120	-12	10.8	10.2	603	469	134
14	Gabba	Bris	131	110	21	10.4	9.2	521	663	-142
<b>2004</b>										
8	SS	Geel	87	101	-14	10.4	12.5	617	360	257
9	MCG	Kang	96	78	18	10.7	13.0	475	399	76
<b>2005</b>										
6	MCG	Freo	129	143	-14	8.5	9.8	669	541	128

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 Melbourne's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Melbourne's latest form. They have been able to capture a few good scalps in the past few years when they've been at these levels, particularly Brisbane at the Gabba in round 14 2002. Their most recent effort was against the Kangaroos in round 9 last year, and while the margin was only 18 points, the Demons should have won by a lot more. They had played all over the Kangaroos in that game up to half time, yet inaccurate kicking saw them lead by only 23 points. And we all know how much the Kangaroos enjoy playing when the opposition keeps the door ajar for them!!! Also interesting to note that the Demons have only had these figures in their previous "good" years, indicating they should have another one this year.

## 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
<b>2005</b>										
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
4	SCG	Syd	120	79	41	9.3	10.7	600	488	113
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
<b>Average</b>			<b>102</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>138</b>

After a shaky start to the season, Adelaide has hit top form and finds themselves with 4 wins from 6 games, and a place in the Top 8. They have definitely surprised many tipsters this year, as most had them in the bottom 4 in early predictions. Even though they have won 4 games, it was their win against the Kangaroos that was their best in my opinion. Previously, their wins against Collingwood, Port Adelaide and Sydney may have looked good, but Sydney has the best record of these teams thus far, with 2 wins from 6 games played! Port has 1 ½ wins to date, and Collingwood 1 win. In fact, they are all playing like bottom 4 sides at the moment. But their win against the Roos last week was great, and when Dean Laidley commented after the game that "Adelaide cant play any better than they played today" he was probably right! In wet conditions, they returned StatRating™ figures that would have reached well over 600 on a dry day. Their StatRating™ Margin of 232 was well above the Kangaroos team total of 189, which represents a "peak" performance...

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
12	AAMI	Melb	138	65	73	10.5	18.6	505	220	285
13	Optus	Carl	92	50	42	11.3	15.1	505	259	246
15	AAMI	Ess	90	49	41	12.2	17.1	433	210	223
16	SUB	Freo	90	91	-1	10.3	11.3	514	346	167
EF	AAMI	WCE	113	57	56	10.2	16.3	635	221	414
SF	Gabba	Bris	82	124	-42	13.4	9.0	382	598	-216
<b>2004</b>										
5	TD	Rich	134	59	75	10.4	20.4	568	210	358
6	SS	Geel	58	101	-43	14.2	9.8	318	481	-163
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
10	MCG	Haw	133	47	86	9.0	14.4	642	284	358
11	AAMI	Carl	87	91	-4	10.5	11.2	532	384	148
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
<b>2005</b>										
3	AAMI	Port	124	56	68	10.4	17.3	644	219	424
4	SCG	Syd	120	79	41	9.3	10.7	600	488	113
6	AAMI	Kang	74	64	10	12.6	21.7	421	189	232

The figures highlighted in light 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. We got smashed last time Adelaide had this form, but had no idea of the trouble that Sydney were in. This time, they're not playing a bottom 4 side, but rather a Top 4 side. In away games, against Top 8 sides over the past 2 years, their record has not been great. Losses of 42 and 43 points respectively, against Brisbane in 2003, and Geelong in 2004, in games that had similar StatRating™ levels. What will it be against Melbourne in 2005?

## 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>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
		<b>Average</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>134</b>

Melbourne's loss against Fremantle last week was only their 3<sup>rd</sup> at the MCG since the beginning of 2004. In that time, they have registered 13 wins, at an average winning margin of 45 points. They have continued on with last season's averages as can be seen by the figures above. Has to be a great advantage for Melbourne to be playing this game at the MCG this week, even factoring in last weekends shock loss..

## Adelaide – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
11	MCG	Haw	70	75	-5	13.2	14.4	311	383	-73
		<b>Average</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>-72</b>
<b>2004</b>										
1	MCG	Kang	74	149	-75	10.5	9.2	438	619	-181
10	MCG	Haw	133	47	86	9.0	14.4	642	284	358
		<b>Average</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>88</b>

Surprisingly, Adelaide does not play at the MCG too often. They have 3 games in the past 2 years, and only 10 since 2000. Their record here in their last 10 games is 4 wins and 6 losses, but more importantly, 2 of those wins were against Melbourne. A little difficult to predict what effect playing on this arena will have on Adelaide, but a 4-6 record is certainly not an advantage.

## Melbourne – Top 8 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>										
3	MCG	Geel	114	66	48	11.9	12.9	478	442	36
4	TD	Stk	104	151	-47	8.8	8.9	566	688	-122
6	MCG	Freo	129	143	-14	8.5	9.8	669	541	128
<b>Average</b>			<b>116</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>14</b>

Although only 6 weeks old, it may be worthwhile to see how the teams that Melbourne have played in this period are placed on the ladder. Half of their games have been against sides that are currently in the Top 8, with 1 win and 2 losses. The Geelong win was stamped with authority, but it was a bad loss to the Saints, and a good effort against Fremantle. Big opposition scores are a worry, and perhaps Whelan back from injury could help to curb this trend.

## Adelaide – Top 8 form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2005</b>										
1	AAMI	WCE	53	64	-11	16.2	16.2	265	339	-74
6	AAMI	Kang	74	64	10	12.6	21.7	421	189	232
<b>Average</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>79</b>

The Adelaide form is in stark contrast to Melbourne, with low scores a feature of their games. Admittedly, both were played at AAMI Stadium, with windy conditions against West Coast, and rainy conditions against the Kangaroos. A combination of weather and home ground advantage may have helped the Crows keep in touch here, but it would have been nice to get a gauge on form away from home, as is the case this year. Very hard to draw any conclusion from these tables and this sort of information will become useful in a few weeks time.

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 7 - 2 since 2000 in Adelaide's favour.
- Melbourne lost the game but posted higher StatRating™ levels, in what has been a good indicator over the past few years for Melbourne.
- Adelaide certainly peaked against the Kangaroos last week, and their record at these levels when they travel has not been good. Their win against Sydney in round 4 is the only exception since 2003.
- Melbourne's form at the MCG has been very good in the past year, with 13 wins from 16 games since 2004
- Adelaide's form at the MCG is hard to gauge with a 4-6 record at the ground since 2000.
- Both sides have performed well against current Top 8 teams, with both playing these sides at home. This is the first time Adelaide meet a Top 8 side away.
- This Adelaide's 3<sup>rd</sup> interstate trip in 4 weeks

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>\$1.45</b>
<b>Adelaide</b>	<b>\$2.70</b>

At the Line

<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>\$1.90 (- 16.5 points)</b>
<b>Adelaide</b>	<b>\$1.90 (+16.5 points)</b>

\* 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 16 points. In Adelaide's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 16 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 17 points or more, then you collect.

Apart from head to head contests, the odds fall the way of Melbourne here. They have a good strike rate when they lose the game on the scoreboard, but post higher StatRating™ levels, have very good form at the ground, and meet Adelaide at home. The Crows need to reverse their trend when they have hit a peak and travel interstate against Top sides. They were able to do this against the Swans in round 4, but their true test will come this week against a much better side. This will also be Adelaide's 3<sup>rd</sup> week interstate out of their last 4, after also playing in trying conditions last week. Adelaide are yet to lose a 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter this year, and this could be an early indicator on how the match may pan out. The line is certainly set far enough to even the game out, and we need to keep a close eye on the weather, but Melbourne should prove too strong in the end.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Double stake win on Melbourne at \$1.45 and Single stake line on Melbourne 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.

Melbourne Predicted StatRating™: 540– 600  
Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 380 – 440

Points Range: 114 – 126  
Points Range: 81 – 93

The Head to head contest's, and Adelaide's ability to buck the trend against Sydney are the only factors that are keeping this game from a 5 star Special. With this in mind, and the spread set to somewhere between 18-20 points, there seems to be limited downside to this bet. Obviously rain would deter out enthusiasm, but the game is rated **4 stars** for spread betting purposes.

**RESULT: Melbourne 11.12.78 (444)**

**Adelaide 7.12.54 (319)**

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