

# Essendon vs. Fremantle

## Head to Head – Essendon vs. Fremantle

Round	Venue	Ess Score	Freo Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Fremantle StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
3	SUB	124	88	36	9.8	10.2	460	609	-150
18	TD	159	72	87	9.6	16.1	688	286	402
<b>2001</b>									
13	TD	118	72	46	11.8	14.7	501	347	153
<b>2002</b>									
6	SUB	62	89	-27	16.4	14.5	263	316	-53
21	TD	93	72	21	11.4	14.1	597	277	320
<b>2003</b>									
6	SUB	100	131	-31	11.2	10.7	403	493	-90
21	TD	133	73	60	9.6	16.3	616	270	346
EF	SUB	101	57	44	12.3	17.8	456	252	204
<b>2004</b>									
10	TD	115	85	30	10.6	11.5	473	540	-67
<b>Average</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>118</b>

It's been all the Dons in recent years against Fremantle, with 7 wins in the past 9 matches since 2000. The 2 wins for Fremantle have been at Subiaco, with the most recent coming in round 6 2003. It was the only time Fremantle have managed a triple figure score against the Dons, as their score is usually in the 70's and 80's. But times are changing, and the pendulum seems to be swinging in Fremantle's direction. The natural improvement in Fremantle's young playing list, pitted against what some say is an ageing Bomber outfit means that the Dockers will start favourite against the Bombers in Melbourne for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in history! The following pages will determine if this price is on the mark.

## 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>										
3	MCG	Haw	77	75	2	11.3	15.8	496	297	198
4	TD	Geel	75	131	-56	14.3	9.7	301	683	-382
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
7	TS	Syd	88	94	-6	14.2	10.1	318	554	-237
<b>Average</b>			<b>82</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>-57</b>

The Bombers scoring figures over the past 5 weeks seems to suggest a consistent effort on their behalf, with scores neatly in a band of 75-88. This is the first of many misleading figures when assessing the Bombers form. In rounds 5 and 6, their score was 11.17.83 and 12.16.88, both terrible returns for 28 shots at goal. At a minimum, a score of 100 should have been reached. Last week, the scoreboard flattered the Dons, as they had 10 less shots at goal (14.4.88), yet managed the same score as the previous week! Even though the difference against Brisbane was 48 points and only 6 points last week, the StatRating™ figures from both games indicate the Bombers actually played better against Brisbane than they did against the Swans. While the scoreboard suggested Essendon may have hit a low against Brisbane, they actually bottomed out against Sydney last week, even though the margin was only 6 points. This is evident by comparing last weeks figures against the Swans, with similar playing styles over the last 2 years, as the table below indicates.

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>										
13	MCG	Melb	69	95	-26	14.9	10.8	328	508	-180
14	TD	Kang	79	100	-21	14.9	9.4	342	564	-221
14	TD	Kang	79	100	-21	14.9	9.4	342	564	-221
15	MCG	Rich	155	77	78	9.7	14.5	590	393	197
<b>2005</b>										
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
4	TD	Geel	75	131	-56	14.3	9.7	301	683	-382
5	MCG	Coll	83	69	14	11.4	17.8	527	259	268
7	TS	Syd	88	94	-6	14.2	10.1	318	554	-237

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 Essendon's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Essendon's latest form. The pleasing aspect of these figures is that the Bombers have been able to bounce back to the winners list this year from these figures, albeit with wins against Hawthorn and Collingwood. Again, their score of 10.17.77 against Hawthorn (27shots at goal!) was disappointing from Essendon, as they should have had a bigger winning margin. Last season, they hit these figures twice, both in round 13 and 14. The round 14 loss produced the same figures, while they recorded a big win against a lowly Richmond in round 15. Their StatRating™ figures this year in the following week has been around the 500 mark, and although their opposition is a lot stronger than their previous 2 attempts, they do have the ability to kick a decent score.

## Fremantle – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2005</b>										
3	SUB	WCE	80	88	-8	14.5	10.8	310	465	-155
4	MCG	Rich	52	100	-48	19.9	12.0	231	542	-310
5	SUB	Carl	103	84	19	12.5	10.6	424	480	-56
6	MCG	Melb	143	129	14	9.8	8.5	541	669	-128
7	SUB	Coll	180	68	112	9.8	14.7	636	266	370
<b>Average</b>			<b>112</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>-56</b>

It was a case of high fives all around last week for Fremantle, as they dismembered a pitiful Collingwood side with stunning precision. The loss was so brutal for the Pies, that it forced them to hold a media conference at 2:30pm on the Monday afternoon! Fremantle started with a 9 goal to zip first quarter, and if that wasn't total domination, they then kicked 19.10 to 10.5 in the next 3 quarters. They won every position on the ground, as well as every quarter of the game. Let's not forget that Fremantle kicked 22 goals against Melbourne the week before, and then followed it up with 28 goals against Collingwood! Is this the beginning of a "super squad", or are they just confirming to us that they have hit an almighty peak? Their StatRating™ Margin of 370 was well in advance of Collingwood's 266, and definitely a pointer to suggest that they couldn't play much better than that! Yes, it's hard not to acknowledge the fact that Fremantle looks to have improved immensely this year, but these kind of figures have been unforgiving to even the best sides in the past. The table below highlights Fremantle's current playing levels with previous games over the past 2 years.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
4	SUB	Kang	167	122	45	7.4	11.6	856	372	484
5	SUB	WCE	73	108	-35	11.3	10.5	407	459	-52
7	TD	WB	155	72	83	8.0	15.6	773	365	408
8	SUB	Stk	123	82	41	9.8	11.7	533	487	46
10	SUB	Carl	127	99	28	9.3	12.6	690	342	348
11	AAMI	Port	63	112	-49	14.9	10.4	262	586	-324
20	SUB	WB	133	77	56	7.7	17.1	816	251	565
21	TD	Ess	73	133	-60	16.3	9.6	270	616	-346
<b>2004</b>										
1	SUB	Carl	107	60	47	10.5	13.6	535	287	248
2	SCG	Syd	71	102	-31	12.1	12.7	371	371	0
9	SUB	Bris	137	78	59	9.7	12.6	649	334	315
10	TD	Ess	85	115	-30	11.5	10.6	540	473	67
18	Optus	Carl	111	63	48	10.5	14.9	571	302	268
19	SUB	Coll	73	106	-33	14.6	9.1	246	552	-306
<b>2005</b>										
7	SUB	Coll	180	68	112	9.8	14.7	636	266	370

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 Fremantle's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Fremantle's latest form. The 41 point win against Stkilda in round 8 2003 at Subiaco stands out as an exception rather than the norm for Fremantle when they register these figures. Last year, they averaged a 31 point loss, and in 2003 they averaged a 48 point loss. In the 6 games that they have lost at these levels, their average score has been 73 and their StatRating™ has been 349. Even if you take into account a level of improvement, their score could not be too much higher than this.

## Essendon – Form at Telstra Dome

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>										
2	TD	Stk	60	94	-34	16.6	11.6	266	509	-243
3	TD	WCE	137	131	6	11.9	9.1	513	592	-78
7	TD	WB	121	95	26	10.1	11.4	584	463	121
9	TD	Geel	97	120	-23	10.6	9.4	493	606	-114
10	TD	Freo	115	85	30	10.6	11.5	473	540	-67
12	TD	Bris	96	162	-66	11.5	8.7	435	770	-335
14	TD	Kang	79	100	-21	14.9	9.4	342	564	-221
17	TD	Stk	92	127	-35	12.4	12.3	330	465	-135
18	TD	Port	119	79	40	10.9	12.8	488	408	80
22	TD	WB	113	96	17	11.8	12.8	468	436	32
		<b>Average</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>-96</b>
<b>2005</b>										
4	TD	Geel	75	131	-56	14.3	9.7	301	683	-382
6	TD	Bris	88	136	-48	11.3	10.3	444	575	-131
		<b>Average</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>-52</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-256</b>

Once termed the “Telstra Dome Kings”, Essendon seems to be a shadow of their former self at this stadium, with some poor efforts at Telstra Dome this year. Unfortunately for Essendon, they played both Geelong and Brisbane in games where the Bombers were coming off StatRating™ peaks. Their round 3 and 5 wins (check the table on page 2) seemed to have them primed for a big loss, and the Cats and Lions duly obliged. Their 2003 average of 103 is certainly achievable this week, as they’re not entering the game on a high, but rather bouncing back from a low. It’s a very good chance to see exactly what the Bombers are made of this week, as conditions are in their favour.

## Fremantle – Form at Telstra Dome

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
7	TD	WB	155	72	83	8.0	15.6	773	365	408
21	TD	Ess	73	133	-60	16.3	9.6	270	616	-346
		<b>Average</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>2004</b>										
4	TD	Coll	88	54	34	11.5	14.5	485	372	114
10	TD	Ess	85	115	-30	11.5	10.6	540	473	67
14	TD	WB	117	76	41	11.6	11.4	439	552	-113
22	TD	Stk	83	112	-29	11.6	12.1	422	520	-98
		<b>Average</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>-8</b>

Fremantle's form at Telstra Dome is in keeping with their “Jekyll and Hyde” persona, as it is almost impossible to predict which team will front up! In 2003, they managed an 83 point win and a 60 point loss. Last year, 2 wins at 34 and 41 points, along with 2 losses of 29 and 30 points. Their only consistency at this venue was their possession per score last year of 11.6 .Their average StatRating™ of 472 was also consistent, but opposition StatRating™ figures varied between 372 and 552. Cannot declare this venue an advantage for Fremantle, but certainly curious to see what they kick this week.

## Essendon – Top 8 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>										
1	MCG	Melb	57	103	-46	19.4	11.3	268	505	-237
4	TD	Geel	75	131	-56	14.3	9.7	301	683	-382
<b>Average</b>			<b>66</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>-310</b>

The Bombers have played only two of the current Top 8 sides so far this year, and have been comprehensively beaten in both games. We know they had peaked coming into the Geelong game, and they struck out again against Melbourne in round 1, as there was a huge emotional attachment for Melbourne without Troy Broadbridge. Don't want to be seen making excuses for the Bombers here, but enough is enough. There will be no excuses if they fail this week.

## Fremantle – Top 8 form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2005</b>										
2	YP	Stk	58	59	-1	15.0	16.6	273	314	-40
3	SUB	WCE	80	88	-8	14.5	10.8	310	465	-155
4	MCG	Rich	52	100	-48	19.9	12.0	231	542	-310
6	MCG	Melb	143	129	14	9.8	8.5	541	669	-128
<b>Average</b>			<b>83</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>-158</b>

Fremantle have played four Top 8 sides this year, with 1 win and 3 losses. The Melbourne win stands out as their best effort so far, yet from a StatRating™ point of view it would be the round 2 game against Stkilda. It was in that game that the StatRating™ Margin was at its lowest, yet remarkably, they have not posted higher StatRating™ figures in any of these 4 games. We don't have 2 Top 8 sides playing this week, so it's still hard to gain much information given the current circumstances for Essendon form these tables.

## Fremantle – Form at Subiaco vs. Form Interstate

Round	Venue	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>									
H	SUB	89	88	1	13.8	12.5	374	399	-25
A	Interstate	81	82	-1	13.8	13.0	391	420	-29
<b>2005</b>									
H	SUB	113	73	30	12.7	12.8	434	372	62
A	Interstate	84	96	-12	14.9	12.4	349	508	-159

This table highlights the averages for Fremantle in Home and away games in 2004 and also for the first 7 games of 2005. So far their averages at home have picked up, yet their averages interstate, even taking into account the Melbourne victory, do not match last years figures. Their Interstate figures for the 2005 season bear a striking resemblance to the predicted averages given their current form on page 3.

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 9 - 2 since 2000 in Essendon's favour.
- The Bombers have bounced back twice this year from these levels, and apart from poor kicking could have had much bigger wins than a 2 and 16 point margin.
- Fremantle hit an enormous peak last week, and have lost 6 of their past 7 games at this level in the past 2 years. A win against Stkilda in round 8 2003 at Subiaco is the only exception.
- Essendon's form at the Telstra Dome has been poor this year, but their have been excuses.
- Fremantle's form at Telstra Dome is 3-3 since 2003.
- Fremantle's current Interstate Form is a far cry from their Subiaco form.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

<b>Essendon</b>	<b>\$2.45</b>
<b>Fremantle</b>	<b>\$1.55</b>

At the Line

<b>Essendon</b>	<b>\$1.90 (+14.5 points)</b>
<b>Fremantle</b>	<b>\$1.90 (- 14.5 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 Fremantle (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 14 points. In Essendon's 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.

This is definitely a big call given recent form of both Essendon and Fremantle, yet the Bombers may finally get conditions to suit in this game. Fremantle's big win against Collingwood last week provided big StatRating™ figures which are usually associated with a loss in the following week. The fact that Fremantle must travel interstate with these figures is another plus for the Bombers, who have bounced back twice this season from current playing levels. After this game, the Bombers will travel interstate in 3 of the next 4 weeks to play Port Adelaide, Adelaide and West Coast. Throw in a game against the improving Western Bulldogs between the traveling, and it's possibly 7 straight losses coming up, unless they stem the tide this week. It means they must win this game to have any chance of recording a win in the next 5 weeks. From a betting perspective, they do have a 14 point buffer going their way, and with the stakes set so high, you get the feeling they have to come out and play competitive football. This is the season for upsets so far, and there's every chance of another one here.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Single stake line on Essendon +14.5 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.

Essendon Predicted StatRating™: 430– 480

Points Range: 91 – 103

Fremantle Predicted StatRating™: 390 – 450

Points Range: 83 – 95

**FINAL SCORE: Essendon 17.15.117(622) Fremantle 11.16.82 (500)**

With the Line being set at 14.5, the Spread should come in at around 11 points. We're banking on Fremantle to come down on Ratings this week, and the Bombers to bounce back. Point's ranges have been calculated using historical figures, but not the "X" factor that many believe the Dockers may have. The predicted scores suggest it could go either way, with the Bombers grinding out a win. The game is rated **3 stars** for spread betting purposes.

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