

Brisbane vs. Stkilda

Head to Head – Brisbane vs. Stkilda

Round	Venue	Bris Score	STK Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	St Kilda StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
6	TD	105	66	39	11.0	15.2	573	354	218
21	Gabba	153	63	90	9.7	13.2	743	334	409
2001									
14	Gabba	119	62	57	9.6	15.8	593	259	334
2002									
11	Gabba	113	52	61	9.7	16.5	792	272	519
2003									
11	TD	85	90	-5	14.7	13.6	307	419	-112
2004									
6	TD	91	92	-1	14.3	10.7	349	521	-173
21	Gabba	130	85	45	10.4	15.5	604	310	294
	Average	114	73	41	11.3	14.4	566	353	213

This is not a pretty sight for Saints supporters. In the last 7 games, the Lions have won 5 and Stkilda 2. No surprise to see that the 5 they have won have been predominantly at the Gabba, with the 2 losses coming at Telstra Dome by under 1 goal. It was in those 2 games that the Lions failed to kick over 100, and yet the Saints have not managed this feat against Brisbane in the last 5 years. Their highest score has been 92, registered at Telstra Dome earlier this year. The averages speak for themselves across the board, and many might say they are heavily favoured towards the Lions form being at the Gabba. Well guess what? That's where the game is being played this week, and with these kinds of results coming from the past matches between these 2 sides, the Lions will start short priced favourites on their quest to Flag number 4.

Brisbane – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
18	SCG	Syd	51	83	-32	15.0	11.3	260	355	-95
19	Gabba	WCE	73	87	-14	12.1	13.0	462	417	45
20	MCG	Haw	66	43	23	12.2	21.3	466	169	297
21	Gabba	StK	130	85	45	10.4	15.5	604	310	294
22	Gabba	Kang	170	57	113	8.9	24.0	800	158	642
Average			98	71	27	11.7	17.0	518	282	236

It was a huge effort from Brisbane last week, considering they were only 27 points up at half time. They must have taken the angry pills at half time, as they kicked 16.9 to 3.1 in the second half! It was brilliant to watch and reminiscent of their 141 point win against Adelaide back in round 17. In that game, they were 29 points up at half time, before kicking 21.4 to 2.6! With so many similarities between these games, we can easily recall the data from that and previous games where the Lions played at these levels. The Table below highlights these results.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
1	Gabba	Ess	104	61	43	8.9	15.4	768	305	463
2	AAMI	Port	86	76	10	14.1	11.6	332	422	-90
6	SS	Geel	92	78	14	11.1	17.0	502	235	267
7	SCG	Syd	79	98	-19	10.3	12.5	507	295	212
10	Gabba	Melb	123	63	60	10.3	20.4	602	225	377
11	TD	Stk	85	90	-5	14.7	13.6	307	419	-112
22	TD	WB	170	86	84	9.2	15.0	761	353	408
QF	MCG	Coll	51	66	-15	18.7	14.7	273	320	-48
2004										
3	Gabba	Coll	137	77	60	8.8	15.2	651	295	356
4	SUB	WCE	76	79	-3	11.4	13.8	518	253	265
5	Gabba	Haw	110	62	48	7.6	18.9	871	196	675
6	TD	StK	91	92	-1	14.3	10.7	349	521	-173
15	Gabba	WB	136	68	68	8.9	15.5	695	310	386
16	MCG	Coll	109	73	36	11.1	15.1	521	238	283
17	Gabba	Adel	189	48	141	8.0	15.2	813	322	491
18	SCG	Syd	51	83	-32	15.0	11.3	260	355	-95
20	MCG	Haw	66	43	23	12.2	21.3	466	169	297
21	Gabba	StK	130	85	45	10.4	15.5	604	310	294
22	Gabba	Kang	170	57	113	8.9	24.0	800	158	642

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 the Lions StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Lions latest form. Oh dear, we've seen these tables before! It's the classic 3 game peak, which Brisbane has now displayed for the third time this season. On the 2 other occasions, they struggled to score and registered their lowest StatRating™ figures for the year. Their only saving grace is that they return to the Gabba this week, and not travel interstate. You can see the value of home finals right here, as our confidence would have been stronger if they played the Saints at Telstra Dome. In any case, with these StatRating™ figures, they are vulnerable...

Stkilda – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
18	SS	Geel	94	101	-7	15.5	11.0	304	399	-95
19	YP	Adel	91	68	23	14.2	13.0	281	308	-27
20	TD	Kang	147	96	51	10.7	12.1	571	422	149
21	Gabba	Bris	85	130	-45	15.5	10.4	310	604	-294
22	TD	Freo	112	83	29	12.1	11.6	520	422	98
Average			106	96	10	13.6	11.6	397	431	-34

The Saints did just enough last week against a determined Fremantle, and won comfortably by 29 points. Considering the game was being played at Telstra Dome, their figures were a little below average, but still good in the context of the win. They're certainly not peak figures, and their last 5 games look pretty good except for that 604 StatRating™ that Brisbane registered in round 21. The Saints have been at these current playing levels a few times this season, and the table below highlights these past performances, along with their form in the following week.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	TD	Geel	122	61	61	11.5	15.8	504	272	232
2	TD	Ess	94	60	34	11.6	16.6	509	266	243
2	TD	Ess	94	60	34	11.6	16.6	509	266	243
3	TD	Rich	114	69	45	8.3	13.5	665	238	428
6	TD	Bris	92	91	1	10.7	14.3	521	349	173
7	SUB	Freo	95	72	23	11.4	18.1	449	271	178
17	TD	Ess	127	92	35	12.3	12.4	465	330	135
18	SS	Geel	94	101	-7	15.5	11.0	304	399	-95
20	TD	Kang	147	96	51	10.7	12.1	571	422	149
21	Gabba	Bris	85	130	-45	15.5	10.4	310	604	-294
22	TD	Freo	112	83	29	12.1	11.6	520	422	98

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 Stkilda's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Stkilda's latest form. There are 5 games which match these current playing levels, with 3 wins and 2 losses resulting. The 3 wins were early on in the season, when the Saints were on a 10 game winning streak. Their StatRating™ in the following week was a very healthy 500 and things were looking good. Unfortunately, their 2 losses have been in the last 5 weeks, with the Geelong game acceptable, but the Brisbane performance was below par. As stated earlier, the Lions were in the middle of a 3 game peak, not at the end of one as they are here. There is still a positive slant to this form. Their average scoreboard total in this time has been 96 points, and even though their average opposition score has been 86, we're not expecting a high score from Brisbane this week.

Brisbane – Form at Gabba

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
2	Gabba	Haw	148	46	102	6.9	15.8	930	259	670
3	Gabba	Ess	117	67	50	10.0	14.1	622	389	233
6	Gabba	Geel	146	89	57	8.3	11.6	818	337	481
7	Gabba	Port	129	72	57	9.4	16.9	682	219	463
9	Gabba	Freo	109	79	30	11.7	13.3	496	376	120
11	Gabba	Stk	113	52	61	9.7	16.5	792	272	519
12	Gabba	Kang	138	123	15	7.4	9.3	801	506	295
13	Gabba	Carl	124	109	15	9.6	9.7	511	601	-90
14	Gabba	Melb	110	131	-21	9.2	10.4	663	521	142
16	Gabba	Syd	117	79	38	9.3	15.2	603	296	308
19	Gabba	WB	105	67	38	9.0	13.0	622	345	277
20	Gabba	WCE	136	89	47	9.2	10.9	600	451	149
QF	Gabba	Adel	115	44	71	10.1	15.2	564	296	269
PF	Gabba	Port	138	82	56	9.2	12.0	623	376	246
		Average	125	81	44	9.2	13.1	666	375	291
2003										
1	Gabba	Ess	104	61	43	8.9	15.4	768	305	463
4	Gabba	Coll	95	81	14	11.2	12.0	446	435	12
5	Gabba	WB	106	79	27	10.2	17.8	548	314	234
8	Gabba	Adel	107	89	18	10.3	10.9	534	459	75
10	Gabba	Melb	123	63	60	10.3	20.4	602	225	377
12	Gabba	WCE	91	160	-69	11.1	8.3	405	761	-356
13	Gabba	Rich	104	61	43	10.9	18.4	503	288	215
15	Gabba	Haw	93	81	12	12.7	11.1	395	396	-1
17	Gabba	Port	103	104	-1	9.1	9.1	547	529	18
18	Gabba	Kang	137	83	54	9.5	11.5	634	433	201
20	Gabba	Syd	76	90	-14	10.4	14.1	501	306	195
21	Gabba	Geel	123	86	37	12.1	13.3	412	428	-16
SF	Gabba	Adel	124	82	42	9.0	13.4	598	382	216
		Average	107	86	21	10.4	13.5	530	405	125
2004										
1	Gabba	Syd	80	78	2	10.4	13.7	441	386	55
3	Gabba	Coll	137	77	60	8.8	15.2	651	295	356
5	Gabba	Haw	110	62	48	7.6	18.9	871	196	675
8	Gabba	Carl	140	102	38	8.8	12.4	680	371	309
10	Gabba	Melb	123	83	40	9.3	12.2	604	336	268
11	Gabba	Port	123	86	37	10.0	11.7	590	412	178
14	Gabba	Rich	114	96	18	10.8	12.0	517	374	143
15	Gabba	WB	136	68	68	8.9	15.5	695	310	386
17	Gabba	Adel	189	48	141	8.0	15.2	813	322	491
19	Gabba	WCE	73	87	-14	12.1	13.0	462	417	45
21	Gabba	StK	130	85	45	10.4	15.5	604	310	294
22	Gabba	Kang	170	57	113	8.9	24.0	800	158	642
		Average	127	77	50	9.5	14.9	644	324	320

How can you possibly fault this form? After 3 Flags, they're still as awesome as ever, and command a 50 point average against sides at the Gabba this year. Carlton is the only side to score over 100 against them this year, and they have shown they're mere mortals by kicking only 80 against Sydney in round 1 and 73 against West Coast in round 19. Enough said.

Stkilda – Form at Gabba

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
11	Gabba	Bris	52	113	-61	16.5	9.7	272	792	-519
Average			52	113	-61	16.5	9.7	272	792	-519
2004										
21	Gabba	Bris	85	130	-45	15.5	10.4	310	604	-294
Average			85	130	-45	15.5	10.4	310	604	-294

It's a different story for Stkilda at the Gabba, with only marginal improvement on the scoreboard over 2 years. The Saints were coming into their round 21 game with only slightly higher ratings of 571, so a score of 85 should be around what the Saints will kick this week. With that being the case, a lot will hinge on the Saints backline to curb the Lions forwards.

Brisbane – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	Gabba	Syd	80	78	2	10.4	13.7	441	386	55
4	SUB	WCE	76	79	-3	11.4	13.8	518	253	265
6	TD	StK	91	92	-1	14.3	10.7	349	521	-173
10	Gabba	Melb	123	83	40	9.3	12.2	604	336	268
11	Gabba	Port	123	86	37	10.0	11.7	590	412	178
12	TD	Ess	162	96	66	8.7	11.5	770	435	335
13	SS	Geel	65	92	-27	12.8	11.7	369	434	-66
18	SCG	Syd	51	83	-32	15.0	11.3	260	355	-95
19	Gabba	WCE	73	87	-14	12.1	13.0	462	417	45
21	Gabba	StK	130	85	45	10.4	15.5	604	310	294
Average			97	86	11	11.4	12.5	497	386	111

This is not as impressive as expected, as the Lions have won 5 and lost 5 this year against Top 8 sides. They have managed to win 4 of their Gabba games, and a memorable Telstra Dome win against Essendon. The opposition score again sits within a tight band of 78 – 96 points, with their average being 86. The round 6 and round 18 games were matches where Brisbane was coming off a 3 game peak, against a Top 8 side. Still has very good form against Top 8 sides at the Gabba.

Stkilda – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	TD	Geel	122	61	61	11.5	15.8	504	272	232
2	TD	Ess	94	60	34	11.6	16.6	509	266	243
6	TD	Bris	92	91	1	10.7	14.3	521	349	173
9	TD	WCE	169	68	101	7.6	10.9	827	348	479
11	SCG	Syd	76	112	-36	10.2	11.0	461	401	60
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105
15	MCG	Melb	89	146	-57	11.0	9.4	409	543	-134
17	TD	Ess	127	92	35	12.3	12.4	465	330	135
18	SS	Geel	94	101	-7	15.5	11.0	304	399	-95
21	Gabba	Bris	85	130	-45	15.5	10.4	310	604	-294
Average			100	95	4	12.7	12.7	452	383	69

The Saints also have a 5-5 win loss ratio against Top 8 sides, with all their wins coming at Telstra Dome. Was their 10 game streak attributable to their Telstra Dome form, considering they have only played at Telstra Dome once against Top 8 sides in their last 6 matches? Their “away” form doesn’t read well, but in some of those games, they were ready to come down. They had scored a massive StatRating™ in rounds 10 and 13, round 15 was copybook of events from a year earlier, while they saved face in a classic shootout against Geelong in round 18. We keep coming back to that round 21 performance where there was no real excuse, other than the wrath of a rampaging Brisbane..

Brisbane – Last round form over the previous 4 years

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
22	Gabba	Freo	156	49	107	9.0	19.3	696	233	463
EF	Gabba	WB	110	76	34	10.3	12.0	611	408	202
2001										
22	Gabba	Syd	93	62	31	11.5	15.9	461	271	190
QF	Gabba	Port	88	56	32	11.1	18.8	540	229	311
2002										
22	AAMI	Port	84	90	-6	15.2	11.6	348	397	-48
QF	Gabba	Adel	115	44	71	10.1	15.2	564	296	269
2003										
22	TD	WB	170	86	84	9.2	15.0	761	353	408
QF	MCG	Coll	51	66	-15	18.7	14.7	273	320	-48
2004										
22	Gabba	Kang	170	57	113	8.9	24.0	800	158	642

This shows Brisbane’s form over the last 4 years in round 22, and their subsequent form in the first week of the finals. They had a similar StatRating™ last year when they lost to Collingwood, but it was at the MCG, not the Gabba. The other form reference was in 2000, when they were able to beat the Western Bulldogs by 34 points. Again, that was in the middle of a 3 game peak, as they scored consecutive StatRating™ figures of 743, 696 and 611. They went down to the Blues by 82 points in the following week at the MCG, reinforcing this pattern. Will they be able to continue on this week, in a final at the Gabba, to create history and start a 4 game peak?

Brisbane – Finals at the Gabba since 2000

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
EF	Gabba	WB	110	76	34	10.3	12.0	611	408	202
2001										
QF	Gabba	Port	88	56	32	11.1	18.8	540	229	311
PF	Gabba	Rich	136	68	68	9.1	17.9	705	224	481
2002										
QF	Gabba	Adel	115	44	71	10.1	15.2	564	296	269
PF	Gabba	Port	138	82	56	9.2	12.0	623	376	246
2003										
SF	Gabba	Adel	124	82	42	9.0	13.4	598	382	216
Average			119	68	51	9.8	14.9	607	319	288

This table shows the Lions form in Finals at the Gabba since 2000. Pretty awesome to say the least. You would be hard pressed to find averages like this anywhere else in the AFL, with an average winning margin of 51 points. An average StatRating™ of 607, with an opposition average of 319 is mind boggling. Their lowest winning margin is 32 points against Port Adelaide back in 2001, while the highest score against them has come in the last 2 games against Adelaide and Port Adelaide at 82 points. Perhaps they're not mere mortals after all...

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 5-2 in Brisbane's favour since 2000 with an average winning margin of 63 points at the Gabba.
- The Lions current form suggests they may be ready to produce an average effort this week, as they have shown time and time again that when they reach a 3 game peak, they put in an average performance. They have lost on the 2 occasion that they have had a 3 game peak this season.
- Stkilda's form at these current playing levels is fair, with 3 wins and 2 losses this season. A point to note is Stkilda's average score in the following week, which has been and average of 96.
- The Lions form at the Gabba has been sensational the year. They have an average winning margin of 50 points, and have won 11 of their 12 games this year.
- Stkilda's form at the Gabba has been very average with 2 losses in 3 years.
- The Lions form against Top 8 sides is fair, with 5 wins from 10 games. In the games played at the Gabba, their record is 4-1.
- The Saints form against Top 8 sides is also fair, with 5 wins from 10 games. Their 5 wins have all been at Telstra Dome.
- Brisbane's form in previous years from round 22 into the first week of the finals has been excellent, with their only loss coming from similar StatRating™ figures as they returned last week.
- Brisbane's form at the Gabba during the finals series over recent years is exceptional. Is it any wonder they have won the last 3 premierships?

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Brisbane **\$1.18**
Stkilda **\$4.50**

At the Line

Brisbane **\$2.00 (- 31.5 points)**
Stkilda **\$2.00 (+31.5 points)**

* For the latest odds on offer visit www.onthepunt.com.au

At the line signifies that you will be able to get a better price on Brisbane (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 31 points. In the Saints case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 31 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 32 points or more, then you collect.

This is the game of the round for sure. The Lions form in Finals series at the Gabba, against Top 8 sides at the Gabba, and generally any bloody game at **THE GABBA**, means you pencil them in as certain winners. Port Adelaide would have to be the only other side in recent years to rival Brisbane's form of hometown wins, but judging by the averages that Brisbane has here, it's easy to see why its been labeled "The Gabbattoir!" But just as this season has produced many upsets, the stage could be set for the Saints to work their own little miracle here. With Brisbane registering their telltale 3 game peak, the door is left slightly ajar for the Saints to perform. It will be the Saints best chance to get anywhere near the Lions this week, and without the scorching heat of a Sunday afternoon that they encountered 2 weeks back, they should play more to their potential on a balmy Friday night. They have good scores from their current playing levels so far this season, and hopefully would have taken away some good lessons on what did and didn't work against the Lions 2 weeks earlier. Finals certainly are a different ball game, and the Lions have the runs on the board, but given the expected downturn for the Lions, a 31.5 head start is appealing for the Saints.

RECOMMENDATION: Even though a Stkilda win looks remote, there is the slightest chance they could cause an upset. The recommendation is for single stake on the line for Stkilda at +31.5 @ \$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.

Brisbane Predicted StatRating™: 440– 490

Points Range: 94 – 106

Stkilda Predicted StatRating™: 400 – 450

Points Range: 85 – 97

Will need to very careful here, as we're speaking the unspeakable. The Lions record in finals is superb, but there's enough to suggest a close game could be on the cards. If the line is at 31, then the spread won't be much further out. If it turns out to be as close as expected, they'll be good odds to collect here. Can only rate this game a **3 star**, given we're up against the Goliath.

ACTUAL SCORE: Brisbane 23.11.149 (631)

Stkilda 10.9.69 (293)

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