

Port Adelaide vs. Geelong

Head to Head – Port Adelaide vs. Geelong

Round	Venue	Port Score	Geel Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Geelong StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
10	AAMI	78	78	0	11.2	15.6	510	327	183
2001									
5	SS	148	102	46	10.3	10.3	534	439	95
20	AAMI	99	69	30	11.1	14.6	512	301	211
2002									
8	AAMI	129	54	75	11.4	15.0	463	307	156
2003									
14	SS	69	70	-1	14.6	14.6	328	241	88
2004									
10	AAMI	116	112	4	12.0	10.1	376	504	-128
Average		107	81	26	11.8	13.4	454	353	101

Port Adelaide has had the wood on the Cats in recent years with 4 wins, 1 loss and a draw. It helps that 4 of the 6 games were played at AAMI Stadium, with only 2 being played at Skilled Stadium. Their previous 2 games have been very close, with margins under a goal in both games. Port Adelaide's StatRating™ has been in decline against Geelong since 2000, and the Cats seem to have remained steady, apart from their most recent effort of 504. These figures may not count for much given it's finals time, and even though Port Adelaide will enter this game with a gorilla on their back, they should start firm favourites. Whether that price is warranted is what we'll attempt to find out.

Port Adelaide – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
18	TD	Ess	79	119	-40	12.8	10.9	408	488	-80
19	AAMI	Melb	125	52	73	9.2	12.0	652	392	261
20	MS	WB	147	61	86	10.9	20.4	487	226	262
21	MCG	Coll	107	70	37	12.0	12.5	401	391	10
22	AAMI	Adel	85	60	25	11.0	15.1	382	238	144
Average			109	72	37	11.2	14.2	466	347	119

Port's current form since the Essendon game has been faultless, and with the quality of opposition they have played, their form reads as expected. They started the Melbourne slump back in round 19, then followed up with 2 of the bottom 4 sides, before holding their co-tenant at bay last week. The 2 games which resulted in high StatRating™ Margins was duly followed by a low against the Pies, before asserting their authority again last week. Their first half was great against the Crows last week, but they seemed to put the brakes on in the second half, as if to just do enough to win without truly extending. The 5.7.37 they added in the second half is the lowest second half total for the year for them at AAMI Stadium. Their StatRating™ figures were OK, and the table below highlights this form over the past 2 seasons.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
20	AAMI	Melb	112	98	14	11.5	13.8	409	363	47
21	TD	Rich	124	104	20	8.4	12.4	604	330	274
22	AAMI	Adel	94	78	16	12.1	15.3	397	313	84
QF	AAMI	Syd	88	100	-12	11.0	10.8	456	398	58
SF	AAMI	Ess	83	44	39	13.1	20.3	382	246	136
PF	MCG	Coll	68	112	-44	11.7	10.6	342	546	-204
2004										
6	AAMI	Coll	101	84	17	10.8	13.8	520	377	143
7	AAMI	Adel	87	119	-32	12.4	8.3	315	685	-369
12	AAMI	Syd	132	60	72	10.3	14.0	468	329	140
13	SUB	Freo	112	102	10	11.5	12.7	401	354	47
22	AAMI	Adel	85	60	25	11.0	15.1	382	238	144

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 Port's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Port's latest form. 5 games qualify under these conditions, with 2 wins and 3 losses. Not the kind of form line that Port would want in this game. There are some worrying signs from round 22 last year, along with the Semi Final form, then a loss in round 7 to Adelaide at AAMI Stadium. Their only wins have been against a struggling Richmond last year, and Fremantle at Subiaco, which is not as good as it sounds, as Fremantle dropped 5 of their last 6 at home this year. They have an average StatRating™ of 424 to 462, and a scoreboard average of 96 to 107. They could be in trouble this week!

Geelong – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
18	SS	Stk	101	94	7	11.0	15.5	399	304	95
19	MCG	Rich	114	83	31	10.3	12.5	575	416	159
20	SS	Freo	75	25	50	10.6	26.8	536	90	446
21	AAMI	Adel	87	109	-22	10.2	8.1	558	628	-71
22	SS	Haw	123	58	65	9.6	20.3	758	177	581
Average			100	74	26	10.4	16.6	565	323	242

The Cats were 15 points down at quarter time against Hawthorn last week, and didn't like it one bit. The murmur in the crowd suggested a loss was on the cards, as the Cats could not lose 4th position on the ladder, and would lye down in this game. That theory was quickly dismissed, as the Cats scored 15.16 to 4.2 in the remaining 3 quarters. They absolutely dominated the game, and in doing so registered their highest inside 50 count of 73. To get a better idea of how much they controlled the game, consider they had 37 more inside 50's, 25 more shots at goal, and were 10.7 possessions more effective! Now that's total control. Is it any wonder the StatRating™ figures for the game were 758 to 177? These figures represent a huge peak for the Cats, both as a game StatRating™ and the StatRating™ Margin. Comparisons of current playing levels over the past 2 years are tabled below.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
11	TD	Carl	115	75	40	10.0	18.0	622	244	378
12	SUB	Freo	72	88	-16	12.5	13.6	367	367	-1
19	MCG	Melb	84	45	39	9.9	16.6	527	217	310
20	SS	WCE	63	63	0	15.4	16.8	291	255	36
2004										
7	TD	Haw	108	52	56	8.5	18.8	615	196	419
8	SS	Melb	101	87	14	12.5	10.4	360	617	-257
11	TD	WB	113	67	46	11.7	15.5	555	258	297
12	SS	Kang	94	84	10	11.8	9.7	374	445	-70
17	TD	Carl	131	74	57	7.8	13.8	833	311	522
18	SS	Stk	101	94	7	11.0	15.5	399	304	95
20	SS	Freo	75	25	50	10.6	26.8	536	90	446
21	AAMI	Adel	87	109	-22	10.2	8.1	558	628	-71
22	SS	Haw	123	58	65	9.6	20.3	758	177	581

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 Geelong's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Geelong's latest form. There are 6 games which match these current playing levels, with 3 wins , 2 losses and a draw. That's better form than Port has, but not much. They usually post a negative StatRating™ Margin in the following week, which is not a good signal. They do have 3 good wins against Top 8 contenders this season, but all were at Skilled Stadium. Their only 2 losses at these levels have come at Interstate venues. Their average StatRating™ in the following week is 391 to 436, while their scoring comes out at 86 to 88. Both Geelong and Port have only fair current form this week, and it could be a case of which has been the bettor loser in the past in determining the winner!

Port Adelaide – Form at AAMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	AAMI	Kang	73	83	-10	16.2	11.4	265	439	-174
4	AAMI	Carl	148	95	53	10.9	12.6	521	421	100
5	AAMI	Adel	90	82	8	12.7	11.6	308	370	-61
6	AAMI	WCE	133	79	54	11.2	11.6	526	466	60
8	AAMI	Geel	129	54	75	11.4	15.0	463	307	156
9	AAMI	Coll	91	86	5	12.5	9.6	295	449	-154
12	AAMI	Rich	154	70	84	8.8	14.5	705	270	435
13	AAMI	WB	161	115	46	9.9	12.0	634	400	234
17	AAMI	Melb	116	112	4	8.8	10.3	747	388	358
18	AAMI	Stk	105	63	42	11.1	14.6	441	344	97
20	AAMI	Adel	84	76	8	10.7	12.5	374	361	13
22	AAMI	Bris	90	84	6	11.6	15.2	397	348	48
QF	AAMI	Coll	95	108	-13	10.6	10.3	549	429	120
SF	AAMI	Ess	83	59	24	11.1	15.4	495	273	222
		Average	111	83	28	11.3	12.6	480	376	104
2003										
2	AAMI	Bris	76	86	-10	11.6	14.1	422	332	90
3	AAMI	Haw	128	71	57	8.8	17.4	599	206	393
5	AAMI	Adel	78	66	12	15.2	13.9	277	345	-68
6	AAMI	Rich	84	57	27	13.3	15.3	330	262	68
8	AAMI	Kang	103	49	54	11.0	21.1	527	223	304
10	AAMI	Coll	98	73	25	10.8	11.2	408	412	-4
11	AAMI	Freo	112	63	49	10.4	14.9	586	262	324
13	AAMI	Syd	99	60	39	10.0	12.8	502	314	188
16	AAMI	WCE	114	50	64	9.9	16.0	477	250	227
19	AAMI	Carl	125	81	44	9.2	11.2	693	409	284
20	AAMI	Melb	112	98	14	11.5	13.8	409	363	47
22	AAMI	Adel	94	78	16	12.1	15.3	397	313	84
QF	AAMI	Syd	88	100	-12	11.0	10.8	456	398	58
SF	AAMI	Ess	83	44	39	13.1	20.3	382	246	136
		Average	100	70	30	11.3	14.9	462	310	152
2004										
1	AAMI	Ess	158	62	96	8.5	12.5	740	391	350
3	AAMI	Haw	171	90	81	8.2	10.0	732	562	170
5	AAMI	WB	119	64	55	9.1	10.6	605	445	160
6	AAMI	Coll	101	84	17	10.8	13.8	520	377	143
7	AAMI	Adel	87	119	-32	12.4	8.3	315	685	-369
9	AAMI	Rich	128	50	78	11.4	20.2	491	203	289
10	AAMI	Geel	116	112	4	12.0	10.1	376	504	-128
12	AAMI	Syd	132	60	72	10.3	14.0	468	329	140
15	AAMI	Carl	123	40	83	10.1	15.9	616	188	428
17	AAMI	WCE	102	76	26	13.1	10.0	304	498	-194
19	AAMI	Melb	125	52	73	9.2	12.0	652	392	261
22	AAMI	Adel	85	60	25	11.0	15.1	382	238	144
		Average	121	72	49	10.5	12.7	517	401	116

As mentioned in the Brisbane report, Port Adelaide's record at home is 1st class. Their averages keep improving year in and year out, and are now up to a 49 point average winning margin at home. They have only lost 5 games at home in the past 3 years, but do average 2 per season. They have only lost once so far this year.

Geelong – Form at AAMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
2	AAMI	Adel	79	110	-31	13.5	9.8	304	541	-237
8	AAMI	Port	54	129	-75	15.0	11.4	307	463	-156
		Average	67	120	-53	14.2	10.6	305	502	-197
2004										
10	AAMI	Port	112	116	-4	10.1	12.0	504	376	128
21	AAMI	Adel	87	109	-22	10.2	8.1	558	628	-71
		Average	100	113	-13	10.2	10.0	531	502	29

While Geelong has lost their last 4 at AAMI Stadium, they are certainly heading in the right direction. Their averages in 2002 were 305 to 502, whereas this year it is a much healthier 531 to 502. They're still allowing the opposition to score freely, but they seem to have picked up in that department as well. The fact remains though that they have lost their last 6 at this ground, and 15 of their last 16 on the road. And they're looking to break that dubious record in a Finals game, where they have scored a StatRating™ of 758 in the previous week? Not so sure...

Port Adelaide – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	AAMI	Ess	158	62	96	8.5	12.5	740	391	350
2	SUB	WCE	118	115	3	9.9	9.3	453	615	-162
4	MCG	Melb	71	124	-53	14.1	9.2	311	596	-284
10	AAMI	Geel	116	112	4	12.0	10.1	376	504	-128
11	Gabba	Bris	86	123	-37	11.7	10.0	412	590	-178
12	AAMI	Syd	132	60	72	10.3	14.0	468	329	140
14	YP	Stk	93	47	46	14.7	21.2	313	208	105
17	AAMI	WCE	102	76	26	13.1	10.0	304	498	-194
18	TD	Ess	79	119	-40	12.8	10.9	408	488	-80
19	AAMI	Melb	125	52	73	9.2	12.0	652	392	261
		Average	108	89	19	11.6	11.9	444	461	-17

Port's form against Top 8 sides is very hard to fault. They have won 7 of their 10 assignments, with all 3 losses coming outside of South Australia. While their averages suggest they only slightly ahead of the pack, the margins become much bigger when you factor in the home ground advantage. The figures then read 5 wins and no losses, StatRating™ averages of 508 to 423, and scores of 127 to 72. This is one area where Port Adelaide have performed really well.

Geelong – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	TD	Stk	61	122	-61	15.8	11.5	272	504	-232
3	SCG	Syd	67	73	-6	14.5	11.4	248	385	-137
8	SS	Melb	101	87	14	12.5	10.4	360	617	-257
9	TD	Ess	120	97	23	9.4	10.6	606	493	114
10	AAMI	Port	112	116	-4	10.1	12.0	504	376	128
13	SS	Bris	92	65	27	11.7	12.8	434	369	66
14	SUB	WCE	49	51	-2	18.4	18.9	229	254	-26
16	SS	Syd	77	62	15	11.5	14.0	339	286	53
18	SS	Stk	101	94	7	11.0	15.5	399	304	95
Average			87	85	2	12.8	13.0	377	399	-22

The Cats form against Top 8 sides is also favourable, with 5 wins from 9 games. That doesn't sound impressive, but look past the first 3 games where Geelong had many injuries, and the figure then becomes 5 wins from 7 games. Then consider the 2 losses were by 4 points and 2 points, and it's impressive! They have held the opposition down to 85, with only the Saints in round 1 and Port in round 10 registering 100+ on the scoreboard. Their only negatives from this table would be their Top 8 form interstate. Their averages so far in the 3 games are 327 to 338, and 76 to 80. Hardly a negative when you break them down to those averages, and they too score well in this category.

Port Adelaide – Last round form over the previous 3 years

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
22	AAMI	WCE	163	51	112	8.3	18.2	755	220	535
QF	Gabba	Bris	56	88	-32	18.8	11.1	229	540	-311
2002										
22	AAMI	Bris	90	84	6	11.6	15.2	397	348	48
QF	AAMI	Coll	95	108	-13	10.6	10.3	549	429	120
2003										
22	AAMI	Adel	94	78	16	12.1	15.3	397	313	84
QF	AAMI	Syd	88	100	-12	11.0	10.8	456	398	58
2004										
22	AAMI	Adel	85	60	25	11.0	15.1	382	238	144

This shows Port's form over the last 4 years in round 22, and their subsequent form in the first week of the finals. Once again, not a pretty picture. Their StatRating™ figures in round 22 for the past 3 years are almost copybook! Their only saving grace is that they have a bigger StatRating™ Margin this year than previous years, but most supporters would be shaking right now when looking at the figures. Surely they couldn't choke for the 3rd year in a row? Let's just take it one game at a time. They were primed for a loss in 2001 after registering a StatRating™ of 755 with a StatRating™ Margin of 535. In 2002, they actually scored higher StatRating™ figures than the Pies, who were coming off a smacking from the Western Bulldogs at the MCG. The Pies had won on 3 previous occasions in that year from those current levels. Last year was inexcusable, as the Swans were on the second week on the road, and had lost 3 of their last 5 games. So I guess 2 out of 3 losses have valid reasons against them. It's not ideal, but if they lose this one, against a team that has just hit a peak, they'll need to bring in the riot police to control the crowd.

Port Adelaide – Finals at AAMI Stadium since 2001

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
SF	AAMI	Haw	69	72	-3	15.5	13.8	245	378	-133
2002										
QF	AAMI	Coll	95	108	-13	10.6	10.3	549	429	120
SF	AAMI	Ess	83	59	24	11.1	15.4	495	273	222
2003										
QF	AAMI	Syd	88	100	-12	11.0	10.8	456	398	58
SF	AAMI	Ess	83	44	39	13.1	20.3	382	246	136
Average			84	77	7	12.2	14.1	426	345	81

This table shows Port's form in Finals at AAMI Stadium since 2001. They have played a total 5 games for 2 wins and 3 losses. The Bombers have obliged with wins for Port of this period, while Hawthorn, Collingwood and Sydney have helped stick the knife in Port on other occasions. Their score seems very predictable, while the oppositions have fluctuated in the past.

Top 8 sides that have peaked against Hawthorn

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
3	AAMI	Haw	171	90	81	8.2	10.0	732	562	170
4	MCG	Melb	71	124	-53	14.1	9.2	311	596	-284

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
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

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
7	TD	Haw	108	52	56	8.5	18.5	615	196	419
8	SS	Melb	101	87	14	12.5	10.4	360	617	-257

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
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

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Stk Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Stkilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
13	MCG	Haw	127	61	66	9.9	16.0	644	219	425
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
18	MCG	Haw	107	63	44	10.4	17.2	680	274	406
19	AAMI	Port	52	125	-73	12.0	9.2	392	652	-261

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
22	SS	Haw	123	58	65	9.6	20.3	758	177	581

While this could be seen as farcical, it does seem to have produced a definite pattern. Every Top 8 side that has enjoyed a training run against the Hawks this year has paid dearly, with Geelong being the only side to have broken that trend by winning in the following week. The trend they couldn't break was the StatRating™ figure in the following week. They were fortunate to win the game against Melbourne in round 8, as they lost on ratings by over 257 StatRating™ points. The average for and against for teams fitting this criteria is 342 for and 548 against. On the scoreboard it's 76 to 114. Makes for an interesting game this week...

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 4-1 -1 in Port's favour since 2000, but 4 of the 6 games have been played at AAMI Stadium.
- Ports current form suggests they may be ready to produce an average effort this week, as they have only 2 wins from 5 games in the past 2 years.
- Geelong's form at these current playing levels is only slightly better, with 3 wins from 6 games over the past 2 years.
- Port's form at AAMI Stadium has been amazing since 2002. They have only lost 5 games of their past 40 since 2002.
- Geelong's form at AAMI Stadium has been terrible with 4 losses over the past 3 years. Their record on the road is not good, although they have raised their averages at AAMI this year considerably.
- Port's form against Top 8 sides is very good with 7 wins from 10 games. They have won all their home games against Top 8 sides this year.
- Not to be outdone, Geelong's form against Top 8 sides is also very good. 3 of their 4 losses have been by 6 points or less..
- Port's form in previous years from round 22 into the first week of the finals has been a nightmare, and it could be set to continue as they have produced StatRating™ figures of equal value in their last 3 years.
- Port's form at AAMI Stadium during the finals series over recent years is average. They are yet to break the ton on the scoreboard, and would have felt more comfortable playing Essendon this week.
- Every Top 8 side that has peaked against the Hawks this year has paid dearly in the following week. Average StatRating™ is around the 350 mark in the following week.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Port Adelaide	\$1.33
Geelong	\$3.30

At the Line

Port Adelaide	\$1.90 (- 20.5 points)
Geelong	\$1.90 (+20.5 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 Port (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 20 points. In the Cat's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 20 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 21 points or more, then you collect.

What a nightmare this game has turned out to be! Both sides have so many for and against that it has made it impossible to punt with any confidence. Geelong has the Peak StatRating™ to contend with, while Port has the first round finals hoodoo and current playing levels to contend with. It does look like Port have the better form in the final wash up, but is it 20 points better than Geelong at \$1.90? I'll let you decide on the way forward here, as my better judgment is telling me to stay away, and enjoy the contest as an interested on looker.

RECOMMENDATION: Cannot make a recommendation with any degree of confidence.

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.

Port Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 430– 490

Points Range: 92 – 104

Geelong Predicted StatRating™: 390 – 450

Points Range: 83 – 95

This game has become too difficult to assess with so many variables. Throw in the possibility of inclement weather, and the puzzle becomes even harder. Cannot make a recommendation with any degree of confidence.

ACTUAL SCORE: Port Adelaide 18.9.117 (509)

Geelong 9.8.62 (267)

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