

# Stkilda vs. Sydney

## Head to Head – Stkilda vs. Sydney

Round	Venue	STK Score	Syd Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Swans StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
1	TD	100	134	-34	11.9	11.6	471	545	-74
16	SCG	65	93	-28	20.9	13.3	258	450	-192
<b>2001</b>									
6	TD	120	94	26	11.7	13.8	503	393	110
21	SCG	55	142	-87	19.0	8.3	268	713	-445
<b>2002</b>									
5	TD	56	56	0	19.4	16.8	206	303	-98
20	SCG	80	87	-7	13.6	10.9	360	534	-174
<b>2003</b>									
15	SCG	61	112	-51	17.6	8.3	228	786	-558
<b>2004</b>									
11	SCG	76	112	-36	10.2	11.0	461	401	60
<b>Average</b>		<b>77</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>-172</b>

The Swans have had the edge over Stkilda in recent years, with a commanding win/loss ratio since 2000. Of the 8 games played, they have 6 wins, a loss, and a drawn game, back in round 5 2002. It does help that 5 of the last 8 have been played at the SCG, with the remaining 3 games at Telstra Dome reading 1 win apiece, and a low scoring draw. The Saints have improved enormously over the last few years, as have the Swans. We need to go back to round 6 2001 to see the last time the Saints kicked a triple figure score against Sydney, with their highest since then being 80 in round 20 2002. Apart from the draw in round 5 2002, the Swans lowest score against Stkilda in this time has been 87. An MCG finals venue should even things out this week, with no clear advantage for either side, and the Saints preferring their beloved Telstra Dome any day.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
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
QF	Gabba	Bris	69	149	-80	12.6	9.8	293	631	-338
<b>Average</b>			<b>103</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>-97</b>

The Saints must have thought it was Groundhog Day last week, as they played out the same script from 2 weeks earlier. While the margin was an extra 35 points from their round 21 game, their StatRating™ figures from the game were almost identical. 310 to 293 for the Saints, and 604 to 631 for Brisbane. Seems simple to predict when you look at it that way!. The Analysis last week was always on the expected downturn of the Lions rather than the improvement of the Saints, and the Gabba factor proved too great. We may have another chance when Brisbane venture to the MCG come Preliminary Final day. The issue now becomes reading how the Saints will perform this week after such a pounding, both physically and mentally from the Lions last week. The form reference has to be taken from the round 21 loss against the Lions, as conditions from that game have so many similarities. The table below takes these figures, plus games from last year that take the Saints current form into account.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
3	SUB	WCE	74	144	-70	14.6	9.1	314	648	-334
4	TD	Rich	81	107	-26	9.6	12.7	551	361	190
9	TD	Coll	84	149	-65	10.4	8.0	394	710	-317
10	MCG	Haw	118	90	28	9.5	13.5	631	305	326
14	TD	Ess	51	119	-68	16.9	9.3	255	667	-412
15	SCG	Syd	61	112	-51	17.6	8.3	228	786	-558
17	AAMI	Adel	86	143	-57	13.1	9.4	321	596	-275
18	TD	WCE	128	67	61	9.2	11.5	671	442	229
<b>2004</b>										
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
QF	Gabba	Bris	69	149	-80	12.6	9.8	293	631	-338

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. 5 games qualify under these conditions, with 3 wins and 2 losses. Their most recent win was against Fremantle at Telstra Dome in round 22. The Saints had conditions to suit that night, as they play Telstra Dome well, (13 from 13 this year!) and the Dockers had come into the game losing their last 3 by an average of 43 points, and an average StatRating™ Margin of -339!. That's hardly keen form. Their 2003 form is shown, but the Saints are vastly different from 2003 to 2004. They did meet the Swans at the SCG in round 15 2003 from similar playing levels and got thumped, but they had lost 4 games in a row from rounds 12 to 15 by an average of 50 points. In a remarkable turnaround for the Saints, they did win 4 in a row from rounds 18 to 21 by an average of 74 points, before losing their last game of the year to Geelong by 19 points. They did beat the Hawks in round 10 2003 by 28 points coming off similar levels, but the Hawks had lost their previous 3 games by an average of 33 points, due to injuries. Considering they are playing at the MCG this week, not Telstra Dome, and they are playing a side that has won 5 of their last 6, not a side that has lost their last 3 as Fremantle and Hawthorn did, a score of 112 or 118 that they did kick from these levels seems a long way away.

## Sydney – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Swans StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
20	TD	Melb	67	46	21	16.9	24.5	236	204	32
21	TS	Ess	110	90	20	8.9	7.6	448	592	-144
22	MCG	Rich	108	44	64	10.2	18.5	422	200	222
EF	TS	WCE	75	34	41	13.7	18.1	350	226	124
<b>Average</b>			<b>90</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>58</b>

The Swans continued their winning run against West Coast last week, and easily accounted for them by scoring in terrible conditions by 41 points. Their back line again assumed control, and restricted West Coast to just 34 points for the game. Since their round 18 win against Brisbane, the Swans have allowed the Opposition to score an average of just 63 points a game, which includes the Kangaroos score of 118 as well. In that time, of the 24 quarters contested, they have lost only 7. Their second quarters have been their best, with an average 18 point winning margin for the quarter. They have led at half time in their past 6 games by an average of 22 points, with the only blemish in that time being the collapse against the Kangaroos in round 19. They lost the last quarter by an amazing 46 points, although much of this was attributed to the players knowing one of their staff had a heart attack on the sidelines. It's always hard to fault winning form, and the Swans playing style makes it difficult to assess just how they are traveling because of their possession football. The table below highlights similar form shown by the Swans this year given their current playing levels.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Swans StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
3	SCG	Geel	73	67	6	11.4	14.5	385	248	137
4	MO	Kang	121	70	51	12.5	13.2	406	341	66
15	SCG	Adel	58	45	13	12.9	15.3	380	267	113
16	SS	Geel	62	77	-15	14.0	11.5	286	339	-53
18	SCG	Bris	83	51	32	11.3	15.0	355	260	95
19	SCG	Kang	112	118	-6	13.2	7.7	372	757	-385
EF	TS	WCE	75	34	41	13.7	18.1	350	226	124

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 Sydney's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Sydney's latest form. The 3 games featured here don't inspire too much confidence at first glance, although some deeper analysis does offer excuses. The round 19 fadeout against the Kangaroos was mentioned earlier, and can be forgiven. The round 4 match against the Kangaroos is significant, as it was away from home, and the Swans came from 24 points down at one stage to hand out a football lesson. The round 16 game was also played away at Skilled Stadium, and the Swans stuck with Geelong for most of the day to go down by 15 points in the end. Let's not forget that Geelong did not lose any games at Skilled Stadium this year, and their average winning margin was 28 points from 8 games played. This form looks better now from this perspective, and the fact that both the round 4 and 16 games were played away adds credence to a possible solid performance this week from the Swans.

## Stkilda – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
7	MCG	Melb	102	105	-3	10.8	9.9	427	606	-179
21	MCG	Coll	66	77	-11	16.3	12.4	332	396	-65
		<b>Average</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>-122</b>
<b>2003</b>										
1	MCG	Kang	70	96	-26	16.8	11.7	293	496	-204
10	MCG	Haw	118	90	28	9.5	13.5	631	305	326
13	MCG	Melb	94	136	-42	11.7	10.0	403	528	-125
		<b>Average</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>2004</b>										
12	MCG	WB	80	103	-23	11.7	11.9	479	437	42
15	MCG	Melb	89	146	-57	11.0	9.4	409	543	-134
		<b>Average</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>-46</b>

Both MCG games have been terrible by the Saints this year, with a loss to the Western Bulldogs in round 12, and a thumping from MCG kings Melbourne in round 15. They scored almost identically in both matches, and up against the Swans frugal backline this week, they may not get to an 80's score. Admittedly, the Saints had a form slump between rounds 11 and 15, where they lost 4 of 5 games. The only win was against Hawthorn in round 13 by 66 points at Telstra Dome. Was it a form slump, or just the fact that they didn't play at Telstra Dome in that period? Since their "slump" which started in round 11, the Saints have played 13 games for 6 wins and 7 losses. 5 of the 6 wins have been at Telstra Dome, while their other win was against Adelaide at York Park. Given these stats, perhaps their form "slump" which started in round 11 has never really ended...

## Sydney – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Swans StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
14	MCG	Haw	64	74	-10	15.0	16.4	320	299	21
21	MCG	Melb	145	77	68	9.8	14.3	582	356	225
		<b>Average</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>2003</b>										
4	MCG	Haw	68	110	-42	15.2	10.7	296	457	-161
10	MCG	Rich	104	72	32	11.7	11.7	446	350	96
22	MCG	Melb	94	60	34	11.6	14.9	422	228	194
		<b>Average</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>2004</b>										
6	MCG	Ess	98	108	-10	11.1	9.6	433	522	-89
22	MCG	Rich	108	44	64	10.2	18.5	422	200	222
		<b>Average</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>67</b>

It's difficult to assess the Swans form at the MCG given they have only played 7 games over the past 3 years, but one thing that does stand out is a positive scoreboard average. Their round 6 performance against Essendon was great, as they almost stole the game from the Bombers in the last quarter. Not much to gather from their round 22 win, as it's debatable whether Richmond is any great form reference here. The pleasing aspect is Sydney's defence at this ground, which has only seen Essendon in round 6 and Hawthorn back in round 4 2003 score over 100 against them. This ground doesn't seem to disadvantage the Swans, and won't be seen as a negative when assessing the final outcome.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
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
QF	Gabba	Bris	69	149	-80	12.6	9.8	293	631	-338
<b>Average</b>			<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>32</b>

This table again highlights Stkilda's affection for Telstra Dome, as they have won all 5 games there against Top 8 sides this year, yet lost the other 6 away games. The Bombers are the only side they have beaten in their last 7 games against this superior Opposition, which accounted for their highest StatRating™ in that time of 465. Their average StatRating™ away from Telstra Dome against Top 8 sides is 331 to the opposition's average of 482. That's over 150 StatRating™ points in arrears, which equates to roughly 30 scoreboard points. This is a valid assessment of the Saints chances this week, as all their form against Top 8 sides away from Telstra Dome has come in the second half of the season.

## Sydney – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Swans StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
1	Gabba	Bris	78	80	-2	13.7	10.4	386	441	-55
3	SCG	Geel	73	67	6	11.4	14.5	385	248	137
5	TS	Melb	99	111	-12	11.2	9.2	403	437	-34
6	MCG	Ess	98	108	-10	11.1	9.6	433	522	-89
8	SUB	WCE	97	124	-27	12.3	8.4	334	654	-320
11	SCG	Stk	112	76	36	11.0	10.2	401	461	-60
12	AAMI	Port	60	132	-72	14.0	10.3	329	468	-140
16	SS	Geel	62	77	-15	14.0	11.5	286	339	-53
18	SCG	Bris	83	51	32	11.3	15.0	355	260	95
20	TD	Melb	67	46	21	16.9	24.5	236	204	32
21	TS	Ess	110	90	20	8.9	7.6	448	592	-144
EF	TS	WCE	75	34	41	13.7	18.1	350	226	124
<b>Average</b>			<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>-42</b>

The Swans form against Top 8 sides started off terribly, but has got better at the business end of the season. They are 6 and 6 so far this season, but more importantly have beaten 4 on the trot in the last 6 weeks from round 18 by an average of 29 points. Their away record does not read well at 5 losses and 1 win from 6 games played, but they have been able to restrict the opposition averages in these games to only 95 points. Their strength has certainly been at home, but their Melbourne record is not that bad. A 10 point loss to the Bombers in round 6, followed by a 15 point loss to Geelong at Skilled Stadium, and a 21 point win against Melbourne at Telstra Dome.

## Stkilda – Previous Interstate form returning from the Gabba

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>										
21	Gabba	Bris	63	153	-90	13.2	9.7	334	743	-409
22	TD	Kang	77	120	-43	12.8	10.3	515	629	-114
<b>2001</b>										
14	Gabba	Bris	62	119	-57	15.8	9.6	259	593	-334
15	TD	Adel	59	156	-97	18.6	8.3	231	786	-555
<b>2002</b>										
11	Gabba	Bris	52	113	-61	16.5	9.7	272	792	-519
12	TD	WB	86	133	-47	13.3	8.7	376	723	-347
<b>2004</b>										
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
QF	Gabba	Bris	69	149	-80	12.6	9.8	293	631	-338

In previous years this would have been penciled in as a loss for the Saints, but much has changed since 2002, as is evident by this years win against Fremantle in round 22. This kind of table can be useful at times, but given the difference in playing styles for the Saints in previous years, there no real conclusion to be drawn by these figures.

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 6-1 in Sydney's favour since 2000, but 5 of the 8 games have been played at the SCG.
- Stkilda's current form suggests they could struggle to kick a winning score this week. Their wins in previous games have come against sides that were in the middle of a form slump.
- Sydney's current form is also only fair, although they have had to play at away venues for 2 of their games, and they did perform well.
- Stkilda's form at the MCG reads 6 losses from their last 7 games. They have lost both games at this venue this year to Melbourne and the Western Bulldogs.
- The Swans have won 4 of their past 7 at the MCG, and have better average than the Saints here. Of their 2 games at this venue this year, they have a 10 point loss to the Bombers and a 64 point win against Richmond.
- Stkilda's form against Top 8 sides is all based around Telstra Dome. They have played 6 Top 8 sides away from Telstra Dome for 6 losses.
- The Swans form against Top 8 sides is only marginally better, with 6 wins from 12 games. Their Melbourne form reads 1 win and 2 losses from 3 games, although they have beaten 4 Top 8 sides in the last 6 weeks.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

**Stkilda**                    **\$2.15**  
**Sydney**                    **\$1.72**

At the Line

**Stkilda**                    **\$1.91 (+4.5 points)**  
**Sydney**                    **\$1.91 (- 4.5 points)**

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

\* Current odds quoted from [www.globalsportsbet.com.au](http://www.globalsportsbet.com.au)

At the line signifies that you will be able to get a better price on Sydney (\$1.91), but they will have to win by more than 4 points. In the Stkilda's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 4 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 5 points or more, then you collect.

It certainly doesn't look good for the Saints this week after such a positive year in 2004. They face the prospect of finishing off the year in a straight sets finals loss, which would be bitterly disappointing for the coaching staff and players alike. But given their form away from Telstra Dome, it's hard to make a case for them here in this game. Their most recent wins at these current levels have all been against sides that had lost their last 3 games, and Sydney does not quite fit that mould. In fact Sydney is in season best form at the moment, having defeated 4 top 8 sides in the last 6 weeks, and their back line has let very little through. The MCG could make it a more even playing field, but even then the Swans come out slightly on top. It's taken the Magpies over a season to get over an embarrassing Finals thumping from Brisbane, and hopefully, the Saints can overcome it in much less time.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Sydney to end Stkilda's finals hopes. Double the Stake the win for Sydney and single stake the line at -4.5 @ \$1.91 is the recommendation.

### **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.

Stkilda Predicted StatRating™: 340– 400

Points Range: 73 – 85

Sydney Predicted StatRating™: 380 – 430

Points Range: 96 – 108

This game should have a spread starting at 7 points, which should give us some good odds if projections eventuate. The weather forecast will be important, as Sydney had to slog it out in tough thunderstorm conditions last week, while the Saints seemed to watch Brisbane from the sidelines. Taking this into account the game is a **4 Star rating** this week.

**ACTUAL SCORE: Stkilda 16.11.107 (452)**

**Sydney 8.8.56 (237)**

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