

# Brisbane vs. Geelong

## Head to Head – Brisbane vs. Geelong

Round	Venue	Bris Score	Geel Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Geelong StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
15	SS	128	59	69	11.4	13.6	481	308	173
<b>2001</b>									
6	Gabba	116	61	55	11.5	14.6	521	336	185
21	SS	110	67	43	10.0	11.7	431	462	-31
<b>2002</b>									
6	Gabba	146	89	57	8.3	11.6	818	337	481
21	SS	110	55	55	10.6	15.1	519	312	207
<b>2003</b>									
6	SS	92	78	14	11.1	17.0	502	235	267
21	Gabba	123	86	37	12.1	13.3	412	428	-16
<b>2004</b>									
13	SS	65	92	-27	12.8	11.7	369	434	-66
<b>Average</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>150</b>

The Cats finally broke through against the Lions last time they played in round 13, ending a 10 game losing streak that started in 1997. Up to that stage, the Lions had always been able to easily account for the Cats, although perhaps the writing was on the wall back in round 6 2003 at Skilled Stadium, when Geelong only went down by 14 points. Geelong has never been able to kick a big score against Brisbane, and with the emerging strength of their backline over the past 2 years, they were able to hold down Brisbane to just 65 points last time. Their backline is just as good this time round, but it's on centre stage at the MCG, a venue that Brisbane has played well on for the last 3 Flags, which presents their biggest hurdle. Given it's a Preliminary Final, at the business end of the season, the Lions will enter this game very short priced favourites.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
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
QF	Gabba	StK	149	69	80	9.8	12.6	631	293	338
<b>Average</b>			<b>118</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>324</b>

The Lions ravaged Stkilda in the Qualifying Final, to embarrass the Saints with an 80 point drubbing. It was an intense performance by the Lions all night, as they had Stkilda down by 100 points in the last quarter before finally resting their players. Their 5 game averages are superb, as you would expect since 4 of their 5 games have been at the Gabba, and their only other game was played at the MCG against Hawthorn. Can this machine be stopped? They have kicked an average of 150 points in the last 3 weeks, while only allowing an average of 70 against them. The table below highlights their most recent form at the current playing levels over the past 2 years.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
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
<b>2004</b>										
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
QF	Gabba	StK	149	69	80	9.8	12.6	631	293	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 the Lions StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Lions latest form. We thought they may have been vulnerable against the Saints in the Qualifying Final, but grossly underestimated the Gabba factor. The yellow cells represent the following week venue, and their most recent game was the only time they were coming back to the Gabba at these levels rather than an interstate venue. Will an interstate venue pose problems this week, or does the week's rest in between negate this expected downturn? They did average 145 points in round 15 to 17 before falling victims to the Swans in round 18. Only time will tell if the Cats can be as accommodating 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
<b>2004</b>										
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
QF	AAMI	Port	62	117	-55	16.5	10.8	267	509	-241
SF	MCG	Ess	74	64	10	14.5	15.6	448	294	154
<b>Average</b>			<b>84</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>173</b>

The Cats defence denied the Bombers any chance last week, and held them out for almost 3 Quarters of the game. It was only last in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter that the Bombers cut loose, and with another amazing effort from James Hird in the Last quarter almost stole the game. In wet and windy conditions, the Cats could have been excused for thinking that a 43 point lead late into the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter would have been enough to win the game, as they took their foot off the pedal. Their last 5 games are also difficult to assess, as they dropped 2 on the road, and their home wins were against an out of form Fremantle, and lowly Hawthorn. Their StatRating™ figures from last week were affected by rainy conditions, but the table below compares their most recent form with games played this year.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
6	SS	Adel	101	58	43	9.8	14.2	481	318	163
7	TD	Haw	108	52	56	8.5	18.8	615	196	419
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
SF	MCG	Ess	74	64	10	14.5	15.6	448	294	154

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 Cats StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Cats latest form. Only 2 games match this current playing level, but both were played in much better conditions. Their subsequent games were played in Melbourne in rounds 7 and 20, with both results being huge. Again, the opposition was not much chop in those games, but it does show they have been able to play well in the following week when at these levels.

## Brisbane – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
17	MCG	Haw	124	68	56	8.7	16.5	630	291	339
GF	MCG	Coll	75	66	9	11.2	13.0	516	355	161
		<b>Average</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>2003</b>										
19	MCG	Coll	101	62	39	11.6	12.2	432	378	54
QF	MCG	Coll	51	66	-15	18.7	14.7	273	320	-48
GF	MCG	Coll	134	84	50	9.1	10.4	568	405	164
		<b>Average</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>2004</b>										
16	MCG	Coll	109	73	36	11.1	15.1	521	238	283
20	MCG	Haw	66	43	23	12.2	21.3	466	169	297
		<b>Average</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>290</b>

The Lions haven't done too much wrong at the MCG in recent times, with their only loss coming against Collingwood in the Qualifying Final last year. I thought they would have played more finals games at the MCG in the past 3 years, but their lead in has been at the Gabba during the lead up, and then turn up on Grand Final day and strut their stuff. Ironically, their demolition of Collingwood in last years Grand Final is the highest score against them in this period, which is 84 points. That's quite an achievement, but not as impressive when you consider only Collingwood and Hawthorn has played Brisbane at the MCG in this period.

## Geelong – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Geel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Geelong StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
1	MCG	Ess	76	126	-50	16.0	11.1	326	632	-306
7	MCG	Haw	78	130	-52	12.0	11.0	365	520	-154
13	MCG	Rich	96	54	42	11.1	13.8	506	283	223
15	MCG	Coll	127	99	28	9.2	12.5	642	367	275
		<b>Average</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2003</b>										
3	MCG	Coll	69	116	-47	12.6	10.6	342	482	-140
19	MCG	Melb	84	45	39	9.9	16.6	527	217	310
		<b>Average</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>2004</b>										
19	MCG	Rich	114	83	31	10.3	12.5	575	416	159
SF	MCG	Ess	74	64	10	14.5	15.6	448	294	154
		<b>Average</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>157</b>

Geelong's form at the MCG this year has been OK from limited opportunities, and over the years has been average. It would seem they don't like playing at this venue early on in the season, with all 3 losses coming before round 7. Their 5 wins have come in the latter part of the season, were they have rated extremely well. How this form will stack up this week against the Lions is almost impossible to predict from these figures, but they certainly don't look disadvantaged by playing at this ground.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
1	Gabba	Syd	80	78	2	10.4	13.7	441	386	55
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
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
QF	Gabba	StK	149	69	80	9.8	12.6	631	293	338
	<b>Average</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>196</b>
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
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
	<b>Average</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>53</b>

This is surprising from the current Premiers, as their form against Top 8 sides is not as impressive as first thought. They've had no problems at the Gabba against quality opposition, with the exception of Sydney and West Coast that seem to have their measure where ever they play. Once they travel though, they have been exposed somewhat. Their only win on the road was against Essendon in round 12, which was coming off a high StatRating™ of 639 against the Hawks in the previous week, and were due to fall. Their average opposition score has remained constant wherever they play, but their own score falls dramatically on the road. As the averages suggest, they seem to be around 100 StatRating™ points worse off on the road than at the Gabba against Top 8 sides.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
1	TD	Stk	61	122	-61	15.8	11.5	272	504	-232
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
13	SS	Bris	92	65	27	11.7	12.8	434	369	66
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
SF	MCG	Ess	74	64	10	14.5	15.6	448	294	154
	<b>Average</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>-1</b>
3	SCG	Syd	67	73	-6	14.5	11.4	248	385	-137
10	AAMI	Port	112	116	-4	10.1	12.0	504	376	128
14	SUB	WCE	49	51	-2	18.4	18.9	229	254	-26
QF	AAMI	Port	62	117	-55	16.5	10.8	267	509	-241
	<b>Average</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>-69</b>

Brisbane are not alone when it comes to form at home and form on the road. Geelong also falls into this trap, although 3 losses away by less than 1 goal shows just how cruel the hand of fate can be. Discounting their round 1 game against the Saints, where they were decimated with injuries, their form in Melbourne has been good. They've kept the opposition score down to a minimum, while posting some good score them selves.

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 7-1 in Brisbane's favour since 2000
- The Lions current playing levels have seen them come back on the scoreboard in recent years. Their Qualifying Final against Stkilda was the only time they didn't, but it was the only time they played at the Gabba in the following week, and not an interstate venue.
- The Cats form in the rain last week may have skewed their StatRating™ figures, but they have shown they can play well in the following week when faced with these levels in the past.
- The Lions form at the MCG over the past 3 years has been outstanding, but they have only met Hawthorn and Collingwood in that time.
- The Cats have won both MCG encounters this year, and their form over the past 3 years is 5-3 here. Certainly not disadvantaged by playing at the MCG.
- The Lions form against Top 8 sides is very good at the Gabba, but poor on the road. Of 5 games against Top 8 sides on the road this year, they have won 1 and lost 4.
- The Cats also suffer from traveling on the road, and have played very well in Melbourne against Top 8 sides, but lost all 4 away games. 3 of the 4 losses have been by less than 6 points.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

**Brisbane**      \$1.18  
**Geelong**      \$4.75

At the Line

**Brisbane**      \$1.90 (- 30.5 points)  
**Geelong**      \$1.90 (+30.5 points)

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

At the line signifies that you will be able to get a better price on the Brisbane (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 30 points. In Geelong's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 30 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 31 points or more, then you collect.

We paid dearly for suggesting that Brisbane was vulnerable last time against the Saints, and some may think that we're gluttons for punishment by suggesting the same this week. But as can be seen by the previous 6 pages, Venues play an important part in the overall equation, and they don't have the luxury of the Gabba this week. While Brisbane have won 10 of their last 11 Finals games, and Geelong have lost 6 of their last 7, there's enough to suggest that the scores will be a lot tighter than the odds suggest. With this in mind, the value has to be for Geelong at the line given the 30 point start at hand.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Double stake on the line for the Cats, +30.5 @ \$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™: 380– 430  
Geelong Predicted StatRating™: 360 – 420

Points Range: 80 – 92  
Points Range: 77 – 89

The spread for this game could be as high as 28 points, and given the expected margin, gives scope for a decent collect. But it is against Brisbane, at the MCG, in a Preliminary Final. This has to be taken into account, and as such the game is rated a **3 star**.

**ACTUAL SCORE: Brisbane 12.12.84**

**Geelong 10.15.75**

**Disclaimer:** While we make every effort to ensure the accuracy and reliability of our information, FootyRatings.com accepts no responsibility for any use of the information provided, and shall not be liable for any loss or damage incurred as a result of relying on information contained in this report.

FootyRatings.com is not associated or endorsed by the Australian Football League or any of its associated clubs.