

Port Adelaide vs. Brisbane

Head to Head – Port Adelaide vs. Brisbane

Round	Venue	Port Score	Bris Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Brisbane StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
4	AAMI	149	106	43	10.0	8.8	610	604	6
19	Gabba	53	120	-67	17.1	10.0	281	638	-356
2001									
1	AAMI	99	93	6	9.7	12.1	497	381	117
16	Gabba	60	94	-34	14.6	10.8	254	548	-294
QF	Gabba	56	88	-32	18.8	11.1	229	540	-311
2002									
7	Gabba	72	129	-57	16.9	9.4	219	682	-463
22	AAMI	90	84	6	11.6	15.2	397	348	48
PF	Gabba	82	136	-54	12.0	9.7	376	585	-209
2003									
2	AAMI	76	86	-10	11.6	14.1	422	332	90
17	Gabba	104	103	1	9.1	9.1	529	547	-18
2004									
11	Gabba	86	123	-37	11.7	10.0	412	590	-178
	Average	84	106	-22	13.0	10.9	384	527	-143

This will be the first time that these two sides meet at the MCG in a final, as Brisbane has usually hosted Port at the Gabba over the past few years. While Brisbane usually hands out a football lesson at the Gabba, the results are slightly different at AAMI Stadium. Port seems to just get home against Brisbane at AAMI, and the “neutral” venue this week adds a different dimension to the game. Neutral in that it is neither team’s home ground, yet Brisbane has enjoyed the last 3 Grand Finals at this ground. This Finals record has to favour Brisbane, and they will be sent out favourites against Port Adelaide this week.

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										
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
QF	AAMI	Geel	117	62	55	10.8	16.5	509	267	241
PF	AAMI	Stk	94	88	6	9.8	12.5	482	345	137
Average			110	68	42	10.9	15.4	452	293	159

After enjoying a week off following their Qualifying Final win, Port was expected to put the Saints away quite comfortably at AAMI Stadium. Considering the Saints had slogged it out in wet conditions against Sydney a week earlier, and with an unimpressive record at AAMI Stadium, not many were tipping the Saints. But what eventuated was a thrilling, fast paced, exciting game that was decided by a kick in the end. Port's StatRating™ Margin of 241 in the previous week signaled they may have hit a slight peak, but the home ground advantage should have compensated for this. The StatRating™ figures in the end told the true difference between these sides, with StatRating™ Margin of 137 usually equating to a 4 goal win. They just couldn't shake off the Saints, but lasted to win in the end. They have kept the Opposition score down to a minimum in the past few weeks, while still kicking decent scores themselves. Their most recent figures against Stkilda are solid, 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										
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
QF	AAMI	Geel	117	62	55	10.8	16.5	509	267	241
PF	AAMI	Stk	94	88	6	9.8	12.5	482	345	137

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. 4 games match these current playing levels over the past 2 years, with 2 wins and 2 losses. They had similar form going into the Preliminary Final against Collingwood last year at the MCG, and failed miserably. The Pies form at the MCG was great in 2003, as they won 10 games from 13. Then in round 7 this year at AAMI, they fell again to their cotenants Adelaide by 32 points. They did register a win in round 13 at Subiaco against Fremantle, but Fremantle lost many games at home this year. They entered the Qualifying Final against Geelong with similar form, but the game was played on their home turf, against a side that has lost 13 of their last 14 interstate assignments. Not really inspiring form here, but they do play Brisbane at the MCG, not the Gabba. Although many have said that the MCG is Brisbane's second home, they will have a better chance at this arena rather than the Gabba.

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										
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
PF	MCG	Geel	84	75	9	11.9	11.4	336	519	-184
Average			120	66	54	10.7	17.0	567	290	277

We thought the Lions may put in an average effort last week, and they followed suit. Even though they had the week's break, they just couldn't get into top gear at any stage. The Cats kept coming and coming, and for a fleeting moment in that last quarter, looked as though they could overrun the Champs. But to Brisbane's credit, they always seemed to have the answering goal when required, and got up by 9 points. The worrying sign was the figures they returned. They got slammed on the Inside 50 stats 59 to 40, although they were able to rebound 40 to 25. Given the amount of scoring shots for both sides, this equates to a 60% conversion rate inside forward 50 to Geelong's 42%. When you couple Brisbane's accuracy of 50% when shooting at Goal, to Geelong's 40%, it makes it a little clearer how the Lions got up to win the game. These kinds of stats in the past usually indicate an impending loss to most sides, although in Brisbane's case, they have a rebounding stat called "The Gabba"! They don't normally return these kinds of figures too often, and the table below highlights just how infrequently they do.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
10	Gabba	Ess	102	74	28	11.8	9.8	347	492	-145
11	SUB	WCE	84	62	22	10.0	16.0	518	225	293
2002										
1	SCG	Syd	110	87	23	11.9	10.6	446	583	-137
2	Gabba	Haw	148	46	102	6.9	15.8	930	259	670
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
2003										
2	AAMI	Port	86	76	10	14.1	11.6	332	422	-90
3	TD	Kang	109	109	0	10.2	10.0	560	522	39
2004										
2	AAMI	Adel	104	83	21	9.9	9.1	455	613	-158
3	Gabba	Coll	137	77	60	8.8	15.2	651	295	356
PF	MCG	Geel	84	75	9	11.9	11.4	336	519	-184

The figures highlighted in Yellow represent games where the Lions have won on the scoreboard but returned a negative StatRating™ Margin, 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. Only 5 games in the last 4 years show they don't normally play at these levels often. 3 of the 5 games have been played at the Gabba, and although they lost one of these to Melbourne in Round 14 2002, the StatRating™ figures from that game suggest they should have got over the line. Their 2 interstate games are a little different though. In 2001, the year of their first flag, they beat West Coast by only 22 points. A good win, but let's not forget West Coast only won 5 games that year. Their other interstate game was last year against the Kangaroos at Telstra Dome. They managed to squeeze out a draw in that game, with a last minute snap by their captain Michael Voss. Given they travel interstate again this week means they may not be as strong as first thought. Looks as though both sides are entering this game with dubious form references.

Port Adelaide – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
2	MCG	Melb	82	109	-27	9.4	10.9	489	422	67
		Average	82	109	-27	9.4	10.9	489	422	67
2003										
7	MCG	Melb	84	111	-27	13.7	10.6	387	567	-180
18	MCG	Haw	84	80	4	10.9	10.6	469	407	62
PF	MCG	Coll	68	112	-44	11.7	10.6	342	546	-204
		Average	79	101	-22	12.1	10.6	399	507	-108
2004										
4	MCG	Melb	71	124	-53	14.1	9.2	311	596	-284
16	MCG	Haw	105	53	52	9.8	15.2	502	284	218
21	MCG	Coll	107	70	37	12.0	12.5	401	391	10
		Average	94	82	12	12.0	12.3	405	423	-18

Port's form at the MCG has been terrible in the past, with Melbourne being their main stumbling block. The fact that the Demons won 11 of 13 this year at the MCG could balance out Port's poor showing at this venue, as Melbourne is usually the side they play here. This year, they were able to easily account for both Hawthorn and Collingwood by an average of 45 points. This doesn't automatically mean that they have conquered their MCG "Demons", but does it compare favorably with Brisbane's form here, considering they are 2 of the main sides that the Lions have played here in the last 3 years.

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
2002										
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
		Average	100	67	33	10.0	14.7	573	323	250
2003										
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
		Average	95	71	25	13.1	12.4	424	368	56
2004										
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
PF	MCG	Geel	84	75	9	11.9	11.4	336	519	-184
		Average	86	64	22	11.8	15.9	441	309	132

The Lions finally got to play a different side at the venue last week, and they didn't play too well. If you compare the StatRating™ Margin of -184, you'll see it's the biggest difference between the sides in the past 3 years. They were still able to keep Geelong's score down to a minimum, although it could have been higher had their accuracy been a little better. They still managed to let through 25 shots at goal, which is higher than their average here. While their average winning margins against Hawthorn and Collingwood aren't as great as Port's, their StatRating™ Margins in the game shows the final scores could have looked a lot different. Still, they'll meet the next best side in the competition this week in the Grand Final, and taking a form line through both those sides, it should be an even contest.

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
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
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
QF	AAMI	Geel	117	62	55	10.8	16.5	509	267	241
PF	AAMI	Stk	94	88	6	9.8	12.5	482	345	137
Average			121	73	48	10.5	12.5	505	389	114
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
11	Gabba	Bris	86	123	-37	11.7	10.0	412	590	-178
14	YP	Stk	93	47	46	14.7	21.2	313	208	105
18	TD	Ess	79	119	-40	12.8	10.9	408	488	-80
Average			89	106	-17	12.6	12.1	379	499	-120

Port did not drop a game at home against a Top 8 side this year, with an average winning margin of 48 points. But it's not at home this week, and their away form doesn't read well. They did register 2 wins from 5 away games, but the round 2 win against West Coast could have gone the other way had West Coast kicked accurately. Their best away win was against Stkilda in round 14, but the Saints did lose 4 out of 5 games between rounds 11 and 15. They are on average 17 points worse off against Interstate home sides, but this could be a little less given its being played on neutral turf. Still wouldn't expect them to score over 100 this week given their past results on the road.

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
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
Average			113	81	32	10.4	13.1	555	359	196
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
PF	MCG	Geel	84	75	9	11.9	11.4	336	519	-184
Average			88	86	2	12.3	11.7	434	420	14

Brisbane is also vulnerable on the road, with only 2 wins from 6 games played. They too have struggled to kick a decent score, with the round 12 Telstra Dome win explained in last week's analysis. Aside from that game, their average score away comes down to just 73 points, with some opposition scores in the 90's. Given this average figure, they are 11 points in arrears on average when playing a Top 8 side away.

Brisbane – 2nd week on the road

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
3	MCG	Rich	94	116	-22	11.0	11.1	398	506	-108
4	TD	WB	87	140	-53	11.7	8.9	453	743	-290
7	SCG	Syd	112	80	32	9.4	14.3	832	365	467
8	Optus	Carl	68	142	-74	14.0	10.7	342	618	-276
20	Sub	Freo	138	87	51	9.9	11.4	444	449	-4
21	SS	Geel	110	67	43	10.0	11.7	431	462	-31
2002										
4	TD	WB	94	78	16	11.8	18.3	482	224	257
5	SUB	WCE	75	121	-46	10.6	9.3	350	644	-293
17	MCG	Haw	124	68	56	8.7	16.5	630	291	339
18	TD	Ess	108	71	37	10.7	17.9	506	274	232
21	SS	Geel	110	55	55	10.6	15.1	519	312	207
22	AAMI	Port	84	90	-6	15.2	11.6	348	397	-48
2003										
2	AAMI	Port	86	76	10	14.1	11.6	332	422	-90
3	TD	Kang	109	109	0	10.2	10.0	560	522	39
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
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
PF	TS	Syd	100	56	44	9.7	15.3	503	255	249
GF	MCG	Coll	134	84	50	9.1	10.4	568	405	164
2004										
6	TD	StK	91	92	-1	14.3	10.7	349	521	-173
7	TD	Kang	120	76	44	11.1	15.0	524	328	196
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
PF	MCG	Geel	84	75	9	11.9	11.4	336	519	-184

There is a sense of dejavu for the Lions this week, as they face the same challenge this year as they did last year. They played away from the Gabba in the Preliminary Final last year, only to travel to the MCG on Grand Final day and play a side that hosted a home Final. These figures since 2001 show Brisbane's record in consecutive away games in their premiership years. They have lost more than they have won in this time, with the record being 4 wins, 7 losses and a Draw from 12 games. On most occasions the StatRating™ Margin has dropped in the second week, and with their StatRating™ Margin of -184 last week, they wouldn't want it to drop much further, or they'll really be up against it. It's not the ideal preparation for a Grand Final, but we're not talking about your average AFL side here. If they win this week, they'll equal the best ever performance by a side with 4 straight Flags, so nothing is really beyond this team...

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 7- 4 in Brisbane's favour since 2000
- Ports current playing levels have seen them score 2 wins and 2 losses over the past 2 years. They entered the Qualifying Final against Geelong 3 weeks back with similar stats and posted a big win, but that was at AAMI Stadium.
- The Lions form against Geelong last week produced a stat that is usually linked to a loss. They won the game but lost on StatRating™ Margin. They have not been as dominant in the following week at an interstate venue when faced with these same figures.
- Port's form at the MCG over the past 3 years has been terrible, but its been Melbourne that has dished out most of the pain. They did beat both Hawthorn and Collingwood at this ground easily this year.
- The Lions form at the MCG has been first rate since 2002, but they have only played Collingwood and Hawthorn. Against Geelong last week, they almost got toppled.
- Port's form on the road against Top 8 sides has been poor this year, with only 2 wins from 5 games played. They usually don't score big, and allow the opposition to kick over 100.
- The Lions form against Top 8 sides is very good at the Gabba, but poor on the road. Of 6 games against Top 8 sides on the road this year, they have won 2 and lost 4. Their average score is slightly less than Port's, but they have been able to contain the opposition score better than Port.
- The Lions travel for the second consecutive week, for the second time in a row for Grand Final appearances. This is probably one Brisbane's worst stats in any way shape or form, as their record reads 4 wins from 12 games over the last 4 years.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Port Adelaide \$2.70
Brisbane \$1.48

At the Line

Port Adelaide \$1.90 (+14.5 points)
Brisbane \$1.90 (- 14.5 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 the Brisbane (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 14 points. In Port'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.

While most purists are incensed that two interstate sides will play off in a Grand Final, the real winners here should be the MCG crowd, in what's shaping up to be a great Grand Final. Both sides have exploited their home ground advantage to get this far, and now take centre stage to begin their battle. They are very evenly matched in all areas when comparing stats, right down to Top 8 games away from home. They're hard to separate on the predicted scoring this week, but undoubtedly they'll be many punters pointing to the last 3 years history on this great day. That said, they are the walking wounded at the moment, with many players under an injury cloud. Sounds Familiar? It was only 12 months ago that these exact words were being printed, and Brisbane came out and demolished the Pies. The difference is that in that game Brisbane was the underdog, against a team with a disorganized forward line, and this year they are solid favourites, against a side that has no injury concerns, and a fully functional Forward setup. This has got to be a factor, and given that the sides seem to match up so evenly, the value in this game lies with Port Adelaide at the line, +14.5 points.

RECOMMENDATION: Single stake on the line for the Power, +14.5 points @ \$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.

Port Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 400– 450

Points Range: 84 – 96

Brisbane Predicted StatRating™: 430 – 500

Points Range: 93 – 105

The spread for this game should come in around 11 points, which doesn't give much room to move given the predicted scores. With this in mind, there seems to be better value at the line, and as such this game is rated **2 stars** for spread betting purposes.

ACTUAL SCORE: Port Adelaide 17.11.113 (494) Brisbane 10.13.73 (417)

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