

## Essendon vs. Fremantle

### Head to Head – Essendon vs. Fremantle

Round	Venue	Ess Score	Freo Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Fremantle StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
3	SUB	124	88	36	9.8	10.2	460	609	-150
18	TD	159	72	87	9.6	16.1	688	286	402
<b>2001</b>									
13	TD	118	72	46	11.8	14.7	501	347	153
<b>2002</b>									
6	SUB	62	89	-27	16.4	14.5	263	316	-53
21	TD	93	72	21	11.4	14.1	597	277	320
<b>2003</b>									
6	SUB	100	131	-31	11.2	10.7	403	493	-90
21	TD	133	73	60	9.6	16.3	616	270	346
EF	SUB	101	57	44	12.3	17.8	456	252	204
	<b>Average</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>142</b>

These two sides have met a staggering 8 times in the past 4 seasons, and 3 times last year . Games at Subiaco in the past 2 seasons have favoured Fremantle, with the Bombers saluting for the first time in 4 years at Subiaco in last years Elimination final. The Telstra Dome games have been a wipe out for Fremantle, with the Dons winning all 4 since the Stadium was opened. Their StatRating™ at this venue against Fremantle has always been good, and even though Fremantle beat the reigning premier by 59 points last week, Essendon should enter this game as solid favourites.

## Essendon – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
5	MCG	Coll	112	79	33	11.5	12.3	444	381	63
6	MCG	Syd	108	98	10	9.6	11.1	522	433	89
7	TD	WB	121	95	26	10.1	11.4	584	463	121
8	AAMI	Adel	135	84	51	7.1	10.0	784	440	344
9	TD	Geel	97	120	-23	10.6	9.4	493	606	-114
<b>Average</b>			<b>115</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>101</b>

The Bombers winning run came to an end last week when a rampaging Geelong rose to the occasion. It's all well and good to say that the Bombers may have peaked the week before against Adelaide with a StatRating™ of 784 and possession per score of 7.1, but Geelong had also won a game on low ratings, and was just as vulnerable. The Bombers did have their chances last week, but just didn't take them. Their return of 2.7.19 in the second quarter was probably the game breaker, even though they hit the front just before ¾ time. Most Essendon fans had wished that Matthew Lloyds 2.4 and one out on the full from 7 attempts could have returned the 7 straight goals that Kent Kinglsey enjoyed, and most times he would have. Geelong played too well in the end, and scored a comfortable 23 point win. For the Bombers, their StatRating™ of 493 was just below the 550 expected, and still a worthy performance. Games in which the Bombers have recorded similar figures in the past are listed below.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2003</b>										
3	MCG	Carl	94	105	-11	10.8	8.9	480	674	-194
4	TD	WB	129	110	19	11.3	11.1	441	539	-98
9	TD	Port	96	146	-50	10.6	9.7	407	558	-151
10	TD	WCE	128	106	22	9.1	11.1	662	488	175

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 Essendons StatRating™ in the following week. There were 2 instances last year when the Bombers played at these current levels, and both produced wins. They were out rated by the Bulldogs in round 4 last year, and had a comfortable win against West Coast in round 10. On both occasions, they posted similar scores of 128 and 129. Both games were played at Telstra Dome, and there's no reason to suggest any different this week.

## Fremantle – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
5	SUB	Geel	117	91	26	12.1	15.0	447	328	120
6	SUB	WCE	83	73	10	12.2	16.2	401	284	118
7	SUB	Stk	72	95	-23	18.1	11.4	271	449	-178
8	YP	Haw	61	70	-9	13.5	14.3	355	329	26
9	SUB	Bris	137	78	59	9.7	12.6	649	334	315
<b>Average</b>			<b>94</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>80</b>

The Dockers bounced back to winning form last week after 2 weeks in the wilderness. They had been touted as the real deal before the Stkilda game, and after playing their worst game in 2 years, allowed Hawthorn to then get back on the winners list. Against an undermanned Brisbane side, they punished them to the tune of 59 points in an awesome display. Brisbane stayed with them for the first half, but with more injuries on the day just couldn't keep up in the second half. The worry for Fremantle here is their StatRating™ and StatRating™ Margin. It's their highest for the year, and unfortunately much higher than their average StatRating™. A StatRating™ Margin close to the Oppositions total is a good indicator of a peak, so they may not get to celebrate their win for long. Below are games where Fremantle have played at similar levels in the past.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>										
8	TD	Coll	107	85	22	9.8	12.0	585	367	218
9	SUB	Carl	82	147	-65	17.5	8.6	228	758	-530
13	SUB	Stk	100	56	44	12.2	18.7	523	203	320
14	TD	Adel	72	145	-73	18.1	10.2	293	639	-347
<b>2002</b>										
12	SUB	Coll	90	79	11	10.1	15.9	487	245	241
13	SCG	Syd	62	139	-77	17.1	8.3	286	848	-562
<b>2003</b>										
10	SUB	Carl	127	99	28	9.3	12.6	690	342	348
11	AAMI	Port	63	112	-49	14.9	10.4	262	586	-324

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 Dockers StatRating™ in the following week. The 2000 form is long ago, and Fremantle is quite a different side from the one that played in that season. But they are included to highlight just what effect a big StatRating™ Margin can have in the following week. The 2002 and 2003 games are more comparable, and the same thing happened. Their scores in the following week read a paltry 82, 72, 62, and 63 from these current playing levels. Throw in StatRating™ levels below 300 in the following week, and it would take an almighty effort to arrest this current pattern. This is the season for upsets, and if this game was being played at Subiaco, they quite possibly could do it, but surely not at Telstra Dome?

## Essendon – Form at Telstra Dome

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
4	TD	Adel	122	81	41	10.7	11.7	495	477	18
8	TD	Stk	171	72	99	8.2	16.1	720	311	409
11	TD	Port	49	108	-59	15.2	10.5	289	457	-168
13	TD	Melb	120	108	12	10.2	10.8	469	603	-134
14	TD	WB	118	118	0	8.5	10.6	726	536	190
16	TD	Geel	56	95	-39	17.1	12.1	234	437	-203
18	TD	Bris	71	108	-37	17.9	10.7	274	506	-232
21	TD	Freo	93	72	21	11.4	14.1	597	277	320
EF	TD	WCE	111	78	33	14.1	11.8	398	490	-93
		<b>Average</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2003</b>										
4	TD	WB	129	110	19	11.3	11.1	441	539	-98
9	TD	Port	96	146	-50	10.6	9.7	407	558	-151
10	TD	WCE	128	106	22	9.1	11.1	662	488	175
12	TD	Kang	88	96	-8	12.0	11.7	415	429	-14
13	TD	Geel	129	93	36	10.9	17.1	540	281	258
14	TD	Stk	119	51	68	9.3	16.9	667	255	412
16	TD	Bris	94	86	8	13.3	10.6	353	490	-137
19	TD	WB	147	80	67	9.2	14.3	709	336	374
21	TD	Freo	133	73	60	9.6	16.3	616	270	346
		<b>Average</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>2004</b>										
2	TD	Stk	60	94	-34	16.6	11.6	266	509	-243
3	TD	WCE	137	131	6	11.9	9.1	513	592	-78
7	TD	WB	121	95	26	10.1	11.4	584	463	121
9	TD	Geel	97	120	-23	10.6	9.4	493	606	-114
		<b>Average</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>-79</b>

The Bombers 2 losses this year at Telstra Dome bring their losing tally to 7 in the past 3 seasons, and adjust their winning strike rate to 14 out of 22. The round 2 Stkilda clash is still skewing the averages at this ground for the Bombers and their performances here this year have been good. Still mindful though that the opposition scores of 131 and 120 registered in rounds 3 and 9 this year, are in the top 3 opposition scores over the past 3 seasons. In their current form, it's hard not to see them kicking a decent score this week.

## Fremantle – Form at Telstra Dome

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Freo Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Fremantle StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
21	TD	Ess	72	93	-21	14.1	11.4	277	597	-320
<b>Average</b>			<b>72</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>-320</b>
<b>2003</b>										
7	TD	WB	155	72	83	8.0	15.6	773	365	408
21	TD	Ess	73	133	-60	16.3	9.6	270	616	-346
<b>Average</b>			<b>114</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>2004</b>										
4	TD	Coll	88	54	34	11.5	14.5	485	372	114
<b>Average</b>			<b>88</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>114</b>

The Dockers don't get too much exposure at Telstra Dome these days, with not much more than 2 games a year here since 2002. This is a turnaround from 6 games in 2001 and 5 in 2000. The round 7 2003 clash against the Bulldogs reads as the exception rather than the norm, and the round 4 win against Collingwood was only the clubs 5<sup>th</sup> win in 15 attempts here. Now it becomes a little clearer why they don't play so many games at this ground. Considering the Magpies were quite undermanned in that game, the Dockers score line of 88 isn't really high enough to suggest they can match it with the Bombers here.

## Games against Top 8 sides

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
1	AAMI	Port	62	158	-96	12.5	8.5	391	740	-350
2	TD	Stk	60	94	-34	16.6	11.6	266	509	-243
6	MCG	Syd	108	98	10	9.6	11.1	522	433	89
9	TD	Geel	97	120	-23	10.6	9.4	493	606	-114
<b>Average</b>			<b>82</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>-154</b>
<b>2004</b>										
2	SCG	Syd	71	102	-31	12.1	12.7	371	371	0
5	SUB	Geel	117	91	26	12.1	15.0	447	328	120
7	SUB	Stk	72	95	-23	18.1	11.4	271	449	-178
9	SUB	Bris	137	78	59	9.7	12.6	649	334	315
<b>Average</b>			<b>99</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>64</b>

Both these sides are in the top 8, and have played 4 other current top 8 sides in the past 9 weeks. This is the only stat where Fremantle seem to be doing better than the Bombers, but again, the Bombers first 2 rounds with a different playing line up to this weeks side, affect the overall average. Fremantle's last 3 against these sides have been at Subiaco, and need to travel down to Melbourne this week. Still inconclusive on how much weighting to put on this category.

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 6-2 in Essendons favour since 2000.
- Essendon's current form reads well, with 6 wins from the past 7 games. They recorded 2 wins from as many games last year when at these current playing levels.
- The Fremantle Dockers had a huge last week, and most probably have peaked. Their StatRating™ Margin of 315 indicates they should come back down this week.
- Essendon's record at Telstra Dome this year has been fair, and rarely do they kick a score under 100 points.
- Fremantle has won 5 of 15 games at Telstra Dome since 2000. Their score of 88 against a weakened Collingwood in round 4 suggest they will struggle to kick a higher score than that figure this week against quality opposition.
- Fremantle's form against Top 8 sides is slightly better than the Bombers this year, but they have much better form against these sides at Subiaco rather than on the road.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

**Essendon**      **\$1.45**  
**Fremantle**     **\$2.75**

At the Line

**Essendon**      **\$1.90 (-18.5 points)**  
**Fremantle**     **\$1.90 (+18.5 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 Essendon (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 18 points. In the Fremantle's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 18 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 19 points or more, then you collect.

While Fremantle scored a big win against Brisbane last week, they did seem to have quite a lot in their favour. The home ground advantage, an injury ravaged Brisbane side, and a career high 9 goal performance from Paul Medhurst made for an interesting mix, resulting in a 59 point win for Fremantle. This week, all indications are that the 59 point margin could again be on the agenda, this time on the receiving end. Their form head to head reads poorly, expected playing levels this week don't look good, and their form at this Venue is second rate. There is no doubt the Bombers should win this game, with the only uncertainty being the final margin. We've seen Mr. Sheedy relax his players in quite a few games this year when the result was beyond doubt, with the only exception being the game against Adelaide 2 weeks back. Games against Carlton and Sydney are prime example of how they do just enough before bringing players off the ground, saving them for the following week. They have the Stats in their favour to win by a big margin this week, **and if allowed to play the game out**, should cover the 18 point line.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Essendon to win by more than 18 points. -18.5 @ \$1.90 is the recommendation.

### **GOLD MEMBERSHIP:**

Historical StatRating™ figures for Head to Head, current form, and form at the ground suggest the following points range for these teams.

Essendon Predicted StatRating™: **560 - 620**  
Fremantle Predicted StatRating™: **285 - 340**

Points Range: **118 - 130**  
Points Range: **62 - 74**

On current figures, Essendon should score a comfortable win. Even though the spread is set at 21 points, this game reads as a 5 Star rating, and should be taken accordingly.

**ACTUAL SCORE:      Essendon 17.13.115                      Fremantle 12.13.85**

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