

Stkilda vs. Port Adelaide

Head to Head – Stkilda vs. Port Adelaide

Round	Venue	STK Score	Port Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Port StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
11	TD	117	55	62	10.3	18.9	554	228	326
2001									
4	AAMI	50	114	-64	15.7	12.6	249	452	-203
19	TD	114	125	-11	9.8	10.2	562	472	89
2002									
3	TD	56	139	-83	17.0	7.7	241	809	-568
18	AAMI	63	105	-42	14.6	11.1	344	441	-97
2003									
12	YP	57	99	-42	14.1	14.9	318	335	-17
Average		76	106	-30	13.6	12.6	378	456	-78

It's been a long time between drinks for Stkilda against Port Adelaide, as their last win against them was in Round 11 2000. Since then, they have played Port Adelaide 5 times at 3 different venues for 5 losses. Their best performance in these games came in Round 19 2001, when they were able to out rate Port Adelaide in that game, only to go down by 11 points. It was just on 12 months ago that Port Adelaide dished out a 7 goal loss to Stkilda at York Park, but things have changed since then. At that stage, the Saints were 6-5 and Port was 8-3. This time round the Saints are 11-2 to Ports 9-4, and because of this high strike rate, the Sports Bookies will have the Saints favourite to win this game, regardless of recent history.

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
2004										
9	TD	WCE	169	68	101	7.6	10.9	827	348	479
10	TD	Carl	196	88	108	8.9	11.1	818	406	412
11	SCG	Syd	76	112	-36	10.2	11.0	461	401	60
12	MCG	WB	80	103	-23	11.7	11.9	479	437	42
13	TD	Haw	127	61	66	9.9	16.0	644	219	425
Average			130	86	43	9.7	12.2	646	362	284

It took them just over a half to get their act going against the Hawks, but when they did, they were unstoppable! The Saints piled on 14.9 to 3.1 in the second half against the Hawks, to turn an 8 point deficit into a 66 point win. It snapped a 2 game losing streak at the hands of Sydney and the Western Bulldogs, which had resulted in their 2 lowest scores of the year. Interestingly, those are the only 2 games where the opposition has scored over 100 points against the Saints this year. Their StatRating™ of 644 is not as high as it has been this year, with the Saints registering 800's a couple of weeks back. The worrying signal is their StatRating™ Margin. It hit over 400 in the game against the Hawks, which has to be considered close enough to a peak performance. The Saints have hit these levels a few times this year, and the table below highlights these games in detail.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
3	TD	Rich	114	69	45	8.3	13.5	665	238	428
4	AAMI	Adel	113	98	15	13.8	13.6	325	428	-102
9	TD	WCE	169	68	101	7.6	10.9	827	348	479
10	TD	Carl	196	88	108	8.9	11.1	818	406	412
10	TD	Carl	196	88	108	8.9	11.1	818	406	412
11	SCG	Syd	76	112	-36	10.2	11.0	461	401	60
13	TD	Haw	127	61	66	9.9	16.0	644	219	425

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 Saints StatRating™ in the following week. The Saints have been able to escape the fury usually associated with this stat fairly well! The round 4 game against Adelaide should have resulted in a loss, as indicated by StatRating™ levels, but the Saints kicked 18.5.113 which is their most accurate score this year. This 78% accuracy surely saved them from an early season defeat. Round 10 against Carlton was again an anomaly, as Brisbane is usually the only side in the competition that can string together two 800 games. There could have also been the "Telstra Dome" factor, as the game against Carlton was supposed to be played at Optus Oval, before the Blues administration moved it there, believing they could get more of a crowd. Nice move. No such luck with round 11, as they ventured away from Telstra Dome to the SCG, where the Swans finally inflicted their first loss of the year. Their 2 interstate games from these levels this year have produced StatRating™ figures of 325 and 461, but more importantly, only 23 and 21 shots at goal. Interesting to see what happens this week, an interstate "home" game for the Saints at York Park, which was moved away from Telstra Dome.....

Port Adelaide – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
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
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
13	SUB	Freo	112	102	10	11.5	12.7	401	354	47
Average			115	89	26	11.3	13.4	430	396	34

The Port Power is slowly but surely getting back on track, and their last 2 weeks have been very impressive. The 72 point win against the Swans in round 12 was a good effort, but the Swans players started to fall away with injuries as the game progressed, and anything less would not have been acceptable. Port's 10 point win against Fremantle at Subiaco was special though. They came from behind early, and then held off 3 separate comebacks from Fremantle to draw out a gutsy 10 point win. As more and more players become available through injury, this team will continue to get better. It's a credit to their coaching staff that they are 9-4 at this stage of the season. Their figures last week were workman like, nothing spectacular, and certainly not a peak. The table below highlights similar games where Port Adelaide has performed at these levels in the past.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
6	AAMI	WB	129	86	43	11.6	16.2	407	296	110
7	SUB	WCE	121	50	71	9.1	15.3	628	203	424
9	AAMI	Melb	88	68	20	13.3	13.6	391	369	22
10	MCG	Haw	116	73	43	11.2	13.2	597	334	263
2002										
18	AAMI	Stk	105	63	42	11.1	14.6	441	344	97
19	Optus	Carl	54	45	9	13.4	13.8	305	355	-50
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										
18	MCG	Haw	84	80	4	10.9	10.6	469	407	62
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
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
2004										
13	SUB	Freo	112	102	10	11.5	12.7	401	354	47

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 Ports StatRating™ in the following week. They can be lucky that this week is not a Qualifying final, given their performances in the past 2 years! They have been the only time that Port has not won from these levels in the past 3 years, with a 5 – 2 win/loss ratio. Their 5 winning games were all at different venues, showing they don't need to play at AAMI Stadium to win the game. They have been able to post higher StatRating™ figures in all but one game in the following week, with the round 20 2003 game against Melbourne producing almost identical figures as their current playing levels. They had a comfortable win against the Tigers in the following week after that performance, but the Saints are in a different league than the Tigers. In any case they have displayed good form in the following week from these current levels in the past.

Stkilda – Form at York Park

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
12	YP	Port	57	99	-42	14.1	14.9	318	335	-17
21	YP	WB	95	30	65	11.5	19.7	564	178	386
		Average	76	65	12	12.8	17.3	441	257	184

The Saints have only played 2 games at York Park, both in totally different conditions. The round 12 game against Port was played in windy conditions, and the final margin should have been a lot closer than the eventual 42 points as the StatRating™ figures suggest. Ports scored 15.9.99 to the Saints 7.15. 57. No such luck in accuracy at goals for the Saints on that occasion. The Round 21 game against the Doggies was played in atrocious conditions, with wind, rain and hail prevalent on the day. The Saints adapted to those conditions much better, and posted a 65 point win. That game formed part of a 4 game winning streak for the Saints, where their average winning margin was 74 points. Certainly a late season indicator of what was in store for 2004. Since that round 21 game at York Park, the Saints have played 3 interstate games. Their average StatRating™ for those games is 412, and their average score has been 94, resulting in 2 wins and 1 loss.

Port Adelaide – Form at York Park

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Port Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Port Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
10	YP	Haw	117	77	40	10.7	16.3	526	264	262
		Average	117	77	40	10.7	16.3	526	264	262
2003										
12	YP	Stk	99	57	42	14.9	14.1	335	318	17
		Average	99	57	42	14.9	14.1	335	318	17

Port Adelaide has also played 2 games at York Park, for 2 convincing wins. On both occasions, they kept the opposition StatRating™ down to a minimum, while scoring close to triple figures on the scoreboard. Port's form on the road has been impressive in the past, especially if you take away their Melbourne trips. For instance since round 10 of 2002, they have had 10 away games outside of Victoria, for 7 wins and 3 losses. That quite a mean feat considering that all interstate teams have had a home ground advantage since 2003. 2 of those losses have been against Brisbane, and 1 was against West Coast in the Opening round of 2003. The other 7 wins have been played at 4 different venues, including Gabba, SCG, Subiaco and York Park. Their average score in these 10 matches is 102 with an average StatRating™ of 451.

Stkilda - Games against Top 8 sides

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
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
7	SUB	Freo	95	72	23	11.4	18.1	449	271	178
11	SCG	Syd	76	112	-36	10.2	11.0	461	401	60
Average			96	79	17	11.1	15.1	489	312	177

The Saints have a good record against Top 8 sides with 4 wins out of 5 games played. The only worry comes back to their Telstra Dome form. Their first 3 wins came at the start of the season at Telstra Dome, against an undermanned Geelong and Essendon, but their win against the Lions was full of merit. The other 2 games were away matches, which coincided with lower StatRating™ figures. Their StatRating™ hovered around the 450 in both games, and apart from the opening round against Geelong, they have not been able to break the 100 mark on the scoreboard. The one positive that is hard to ignore is the opposition StatRating™. They've been able to keep this down to an impressive average of 312 over 5 games.

Port Adelaide - Games against Top 8 sides

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
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
13	SUB	Freo	112	102	10	11.5	12.7	401	354	47
Average			113	97	15	11.3	11.4	451	460	-9

Port has played 6 of the Top 8 sides so far, and Stkilda will complete their Top 8 mission. They have 4 wins out of 6 games, with most being played recently between rounds 10 and 13. It was a tough 4 weeks for Port Adelaide, and they came through with 3 wins and 1 loss. 2 home games against Geelong and Sydney certainly helped their cause, with the Round 10 win against Geelong being very fortunate, given the final StatRating™ figures. Unlike the Saints, they have been able to kick big scores against these sides, but at the same time, have allowed the opposition to kick some big ones as well. Both Port and Stkilda fair very well in these tables, but just leaning towards Port here, as their form against these teams is more recent than Stkilda.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 5-1 in Port favour, with Port having won their last 5 on the trot.
- The Saints current playing levels suggest their StatRating™ won't hit 500 this week. StatRating™ level this year in the following week at interstate venues have been 325 and 461
- Port Adelaide's current playing levels suggest they have a very good chance of posting a win here. Of the 7 games that match their current playing levels, they have 5 wins and 2 losses. Both losses were in Finals matches.
- The Saints record at York Park is 1-1 after 2 games played. Their interstate record since then is 2 wins and 1 loss from 3 games.
- Port Adelaide has played twice at York Park for 2 convincing wins. Their last 10 interstate games (Victoria excluded) have netted 7 wins. Of the 3 losses, 2 were against Brisbane at the Gabba.
- Both sides have similar form against Top 8 sides this season, with a slight leaning towards Port Adelaide. While most of Stkilda's wins came early in the season, most of Ports have been in the last 4 weeks. The Saints have struggled to kick high scores against these teams, while Port has had no such trouble.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Stkilda **\$1.70**
Port Adelaide **\$2.10**

At the Line

Stkilda **\$1.90 (-7.5 points)**
Port Adelaide **\$1.90 (+7.5 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 Stkilda (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 7 points. In Port's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 7 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 8 points or more, then you collect.

While the Saints are sitting pretty at the top of the league ladder, it's a game where they can pencil in an easy "home" win. The York Park venue is a big factor in this game, as it represents an "away" game for both teams. Had the game been played at Telstra Dome, then the Saints would justify their favoritism here. But considering their away form, their current peak, and their form against Top 8 sides, the scales start to tip in Port Adelaide's favour. The other factors to consider is the mid season break. Much of the analysis depends on their previous week's form, and with a weeks rest, how will this affect the resulting playing performances? In the past few seasons, it has not been a factor, but the confidence is slightly dented nonetheless. Given Port has a real chance to cause an upset here, and points head start is a bonus.

RECOMMENDATION: Port Adelaide has a great chance to win this game, and the 7.5 point head start the bookies are offering is a great incentive. Port at the line +7.5 @ \$1.90 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™: 390– 450
Port Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 460 – 520

Points Range: 83 – 95
Points Range: 98 – 110

Looking for at least a 3-4 point head start on the spread here for Port Adelaide. This could lengthen as money may come for the Saints later on in the week. Given they have a good chance of winning the game, the only factor becomes the weeks rest. Suggest a 3 star out of 5 rating for this game.

ACTUAL SCORE: Stkilda 7.5.47

Port Adelaide 14.9.93

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