

Melbourne vs. Stkilda

Head to Head – Melbourne vs. Stkilda

Round	Venue	Melb Score	STK Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	St Kilda StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
4	MCG	165	75	90	8.2	13.8	699	391	308
19	TD	116	98	18	9.9	11.4	658	448	211
2001									
10	TD	144	113	31	8.6	10.0	666	468	198
2002									
7	MCG	105	102	3	9.9	10.8	606	427	179
22	TD	135	117	18	8.4	11.3	631	441	190
2003									
13	MCG	136	94	42	10.0	11.7	528	403	125
Average		134	100	34	9.2	11.5	632	430	202

This is almost a copybook of last weeks chart for Stkilda against Port Adelaide, as their record against Melbourne is 0-6 over the last 4 years. The amazing occurrence is not so much in the losing margin, but in the consistency of the StatRating™ figures. Melbourne has been able to consistently rate in the 600's, while the Saints rate in the 400's. There has always been a healthy StatRating™ Margin between these 2 sides, varying from 125 to 308. It could be seen as a slowly decreasing one for Melbourne, as it has dropped from 2000 to 2003, but their needs to be more conviction in these figures to suggest the Saints have a chance in this game, based on these figures. Melbourne has been very efficient against Stkilda in this time, with a Possession per score of 10.0 or lower in the past 4 years. This impressive record against Stkilda should see Melbourne enter the game as slight favourites.

Melbourne – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
10	Gabba	Bris	83	123	-40	12.2	9.3	336	604	-268
11	SUB	Freo	93	62	31	10.1	16.7	526	257	269
12	MCG	Coll	82	73	9	12.4	13.9	395	344	51
13	MCG	Ess	95	69	26	10.8	14.9	508	328	180
14	AAMI	Adel	73	145	-72	11.6	9.7	355	661	-306
Average			85	94	-9	11.4	12.9	424	439	-15

It was always going to be a hard task for the Demons last week, coming up against a pumped up Adelaide who went through a coaching change a week earlier. Not sure why it has the effect it does, but one just needs to look at how the Tigers performed against Brisbane at the Gabba to see what a difference it makes to the side! Considering Adelaide was playing in front of a home crowd, and eager to please their new coach, it's hardly surprising that the end result was so big. But Melbourne can take some positives away from this game. The StatRating™ Margin of 306, isolated between some good StatRating™ figures in the previous games can be seen as a bottoming out for them. Just as a high StatRating™ Margin is a peak, with a poor performance expected the following week, the reverse applies in this weeks figures. Below are similar games where Melbourne has hit these levels in the past.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
3	MCG	Rich	76	96	-20	13.7	10.5	350	517	-167
4	Optus	WCE	137	103	34	10.3	8.7	524	585	-62
21	MCG	Syd	77	145	-68	14.3	9.8	356	582	-225
22	TD	Stk	135	117	18	8.4	11.3	631	441	190
2003										
6	MCG	WCE	94	127	-33	12.0	8.3	410	618	-208
7	MCG	Port	111	84	27	10.6	13.7	567	387	180
12	AAMI	Adel	65	138	-73	18.6	10.5	220	505	-285
13	MCG	Stk	136	94	42	10.0	11.7	528	403	125
2004										
10	Gabba	Bris	83	123	-40	12.2	9.3	336	604	-268
11	SUB	Freo	93	62	31	10.1	16.7	526	257	269
14	AAMI	Adel	73	145	-72	11.6	9.7	355	661	-306

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 Melbourne's StatRating™ in the following week. Melbourne has been at these levels 5 times in the past 3 years, resulting in 5 convincing wins. On each occasion, their StatRating™ has been over 500 in the following week, with 2 of these wins being against this week's opponent, Stkilda. The round 12 2003 game against Adelaide at AAMI stadium is of particular interest. It's almost a copybook insofar as scores and StatRating™ figures which were recorded by Melbourne last week against the Crows. The good news from that game is that they fronted up against Stkilda at the MCG the following week to record a comfortable 42 point win. Is there a chance of history repeating itself this week? Their round 10 2004 stats against Brisbane this year also give confidence in the fact that they are able to come back from these levels to win. After being on the road for the second consecutive week, they were still able to come from behind and defeat Fremantle at Subiaco in a convincing display. While a 72 point loss is not what Melbourne would have liked last week, there's plenty to like about the StatRating™ figures they should post this week.

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										
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
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105
Average			105	91	14	12.4	12.9	522	355	167

The Saints crumbled yet again away from Telstra Dome, in their worst performance in a long while. Port Power applied the clamps on Stkilda for the entire game and did not give them a sniff of victory at any stage. The slippery conditions did not seem to suit the Saints, who have shown a liking to near perfect conditions at Telstra Dome. Mind you, the performance was to be expected after they posted a StatRating™ Margin of 425 against the Hawks in the previous game. It's just that a possession per score of 21.2 with a StatRating™ of 208 is not the type of "low" we expected from the Saints. This StatRating™ is partly attributable to the conditions the game was played in, as Port won't win too many more matches this year on a StatRating™ of 313. This low StatRating™ has been posted before by the Saints, but not that frequently, as can be seen by the table below.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
13	SUB	Freo	56	100	-44	18.7	12.2	203	523	-320
14	MCG	Haw	86	171	-85	14.5	9.6	408	565	-158
16	SCG	Syd	65	93	-28	20.9	13.3	258	450	-192
17	TD	Geel	109	85	24	11.3	15.9	511	346	165
2002										
5	TD	Syd	56	56	0	19.4	16.8	206	303	-98
6	TD	Coll	28	111	-83	20.2	10.8	129	546	-417
6	TD	Coll	28	111	-83	20.2	10.8	129	546	-417
7	MCG	Melb	102	105	-3	10.8	9.9	427	606	-179
2004										
4	AAMI	Adel	113	98	15	13.8	13.6	325	428	-102
5	TD	Kang	130	62	65	10.7	10.8	596	381	215
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105

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. Extremely hard to gauge what the Saints will do this week given the scarcity of the figures at hand. They have not fared well in the past from these current playing levels, but in fairness to the Saints, the figures from 2000 and 2002 are not representative of the playing group of 2004. Their most recent form with these figures came in round 4 this year against Adelaide at AAMI Stadium. The StatRating™ Margin was the same, but it was a game the Saints won, not lost, and the possession per score and StatRating™ were considerably better than last week. Happy to take a neutral approach with these figures, but the record of teams that have scored a StatRating™ of 200 or so in the past, actually winning in the following week is very, very low.

Melbourne – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	MCG	Haw	129	103	26	9.8	8.7	511	574	-63
2	MCG	Port	109	82	27	10.9	9.4	422	489	-67
3	MCG	Rich	76	96	-20	13.7	10.5	350	517	-167
7	MCG	Stk	105	102	3	9.9	10.8	606	427	179
9	MCG	Kang	111	107	4	11.0	8.2	474	684	-210
11	MCG	Coll	75	126	-51	12.2	10.9	400	466	-66
16	MCG	Haw	67	93	-26	13.2	14.0	387	330	57
18	MCG	Rich	94	99	-5	11.2	10.2	384	462	-78
20	MCG	WB	107	95	12	9.6	12.5	615	407	208
21	MCG	Syd	77	145	-68	14.3	9.8	356	582	-225
EF	MCG	Kang	122	84	38	9.8	9.8	599	543	56
SF	MCG	Adel	118	130	-12	6.7	8.9	690	609	81
		Average	99	105	-6	11.0	10.3	483	507	-25
2003										
1	MCG	Haw	106	100	6	12.0	10.8	426	539	-113
2	MCG	Ess	75	112	-37	11.5	11.7	503	409	95
6	MCG	WCE	94	127	-33	12.0	8.3	410	618	-208
7	MCG	Port	111	84	27	10.6	13.7	567	387	180
8	MCG	Rich	103	112	-9	11.8	10.5	465	523	-58
9	MCG	Freo	71	101	-30	16.0	14.4	368	326	42
11	MCG	Coll	77	133	-56	10.1	9.9	512	543	-31
13	MCG	Stk	136	94	42	10.0	11.7	528	403	125
15	MCG	Kang	94	101	-7	14.3	13.2	414	371	43
16	MCG	Haw	106	113	-7	9.5	10.5	567	487	80
17	MCG	Ess	71	88	-17	13.7	14.0	351	406	-55
19	MCG	Geel	45	84	-39	16.6	9.9	217	527	-310
22	MCG	Syd	60	94	-34	14.9	11.6	228	422	-194
		Average	88	103	-15	12.5	11.6	427	459	-31
2004										
1	MCG	Haw	70	119	-49	13.3	9.4	398	572	-173
2	MCG	Rich	135	76	59	9.1	19.6	762	219	543
3	MCG	WB	97	87	10	7.8	11.1	781	422	359
4	MCG	Port	124	71	53	9.2	14.1	596	311	284
6	MCG	Carl	160	55	105	10.6	19.7	632	259	373
7	MCG	WCE	122	73	49	10.1	16.2	563	297	266
9	MCG	Kang	96	78	18	10.7	13.0	475	399	76
12	MCG	Coll	82	73	9	12.4	13.9	395	344	51
13	MCG	Ess	95	69	26	10.8	14.9	508	328	180
		Average	109	78	31	10.5	14.7	568	350	218

Melbourne's form at the MCG has improved markedly over the years, and now has the best form of all teams there this season. Apart from their round 1 glitch against likely wooden spooners Hawthorn, they have been a picture of consistency. They have held the opposition scores down to a narrow band, averaging out to 78 for the year. They have won their last 8 at this venue, with their lowest StatRating™ being 395 in wet conditions against the Pies. An average of 568 over 9 games is impressive, as is their 350 StatRating™ for the opposition teams. With this record, you'd have to compare them as good at the MCG as Stkilda is at Telstra Dome.

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
2002										
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
		Average	84	91	-7	13.5	11.1	379	501	-122
2003										
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
		Average	94	107	-13	12.6	11.7	442	443	-1
2004										
12	MCG	WB	80	103	-23	11.7	11.9	479	437	42
		Average	80	103	-23	11.7	11.9	479	437	42

It's a different story for the Saints here, as they have won only 1 game out of 6 in the past 3 years. That record is even worse if you include all games played here by the Saints since 2000. It then reads 2 wins from 12 games played. They managed a Possession per score of 9.5 and a StatRating™ of 631 in their only win here recently, but those figures seem to be the exception rather than the norm. Their StatRating™ average hovers around the 430 mark, while their scoreboard average overall is at 88. Considering Melbourne's record at this ground, and their average of 109 at the MCG this year, it's a definite disadvantage for the Saints to play at the MCG this week.

Melbourne - Games against Top 8 sides

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
4	MCG	Port	124	71	53	9.2	14.1	596	311	284
5	TS	Syd	111	99	12	9.2	11.2	437	403	34
8	SS	Geel	87	101	-14	10.4	12.5	617	360	257
10	Gabba	Bris	83	123	-40	12.2	9.3	336	604	-268
11	SUB	Freo	93	62	31	10.1	16.7	526	257	269
13	MCG	Ess	95	69	26	10.8	14.9	508	328	180
		Average	99	88	11	10.3	13.1	503	377	126

The Saints will complete Melbourne's Top 8 games, where their record is 4-2 from the 6 they have played. These are good average across the board for the Dees, with an average score just under 100 against quality opposition. Their StatRating™ average of 503 is also pretty high, while keeping the opposition StatRating™ down to 377 is a credit to their backline. The only game where they have not out rated the opposition has been against Brisbane at the Gabba in round 10. It's also the only game they allowed the opposition to post a Possession per score under 10.0.

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
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105
Average			88	82	6	12.8	15.1	442	312	130

The Saints also have a 4-2 win loss ratio against Top 8 sides, but most of their form came earlier in the season. Their 2 losses have come in the last 4 weeks, and just don't seem to give the same confidence that the Melbourne figures do. Their averages across the board are just as good as the Demons, but somehow not as convincing. Their average StatRating™ of 442 is lower than Melbourne's 503, but they also have a lower opposition StatRating™ of 312 to 377 to compensate for that. The end result is fairly even with both sides at 4-2 against Top 8 sides.

Stkilda – Form returning from 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
13	MCG	Melb	94	136	-42	11.7	10.0	403	528	-125
21	YP	WB	95	30	65	11.5	19.7	564	178	386
22	SS	Geel	65	84	-19	15.1	11.3	365	362	4
2004										
14	YP	Port	47	93	-46	21.2	14.7	208	313	-105

It's sometimes a good gauge to see just what effect a team has from traveling to certain grounds, and if there is any pattern that eventuates from traveling. In Stkilda's case, their form returning from York Park is starting to trend, but 2 games is still too low a sample to start predicting trends. One aspect that did require further attention was the round 12 2003 game that Stkilda played against Port Adelaide. We've already made mention of that week for Melbourne earlier, as they got walloped by Adelaide in that same round last year to produce similar StatRating™ figures as last week. Well it seems the Saints are in the same boat! Their figures from that game last year are very similar to those posted last week. Scoreboard figures and StatRating™ figures aren't too dissimilar, which means that both Melbourne and Stkilda will carry virtually identical form into this week's game as they did back in round 13 of 2003! What are the odds of Melbourne winning this weeks game by 42 points!?! I'm sure if it does occur, it will send the "statophiles" into a state of frenzy...

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 6-0 in Melbourne's favour since 2000.
- Although Melbourne lost by 72 points last week, their current playing levels suggest they can bounce back to form this week. Their average StatRating™ in the following week from these levels has been 555.
- The Saints current playing levels are at a 2 year low, with a StatRating™ of 208 last week. There's not much data at these levels, but the strike rate of teams winning in the following week with this StatRating™ is very low.
- Melbourne's record at the MCG this year reads 8-1. Their average StatRating™ is 568, with an average score of 109.
- The Saints record at the MCG since 2000 is 2 wins and 10 losses. Recently it has been 1 win and 5 losses over the past 2 years.
- Both sides have similar form against Top 8 sides this season, with a slight leaning towards Melbourne. Both have a 4-2 record against these teams this year.
- Both Melbourne and Stkilda enter this week's game with virtually identical form from 2003. Melbourne won last years game against the Saints by 42 points.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Melbourne	\$1.62
Stkilda	\$2.30

At the Line

Melbourne	\$1.90 (-9.5 points)
Stkilda	\$1.90 (+9.5 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 Melbourne (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 9 points. In Stkilda's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 9 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 10 points or more, then you collect.

There's no doubting the Saints are in the middle of a slump, and the price being offered by the bookies is largely based on their 10 zip start to the season more than current form. Melbourne's 72 point loss last week against the Crows was also a factor considered by the price assessors, and as such they are fairly even. But that's where the levelness ends. Melbourne has a commanding record against the Saints, have the record on the board at the MCG, and their predicted playing levels this week far outweigh the Stats that Stkilda has produced in the past 4 weeks. There's no doubt the Saints will emerge from their current form slump, but the stats suggest it won't happen this week.

RECOMMENDATION: Melbourne to bounce back and win this game. Double the stake for the win and single stake the line at -9.5 points.

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.

Melbourne Predicted StatRating™: 520– 580
Stkilda Predicted StatRating™: 360 – 420

Points Range: 110 – 122
Points Range: 78 – 90

Stats indicate there could be a solid margin in this game. Expecting the spread to be around 13 points, so good odds will be available if all goes to plan. Going for a **5 star** rating.

ACTUAL SCORE: Melbourne 23.8.146 (543)

Stkilda 13.11.89 (409)

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