

West Coast vs. Essendon

Head to Head – West Coast vs. Essendon

Round	Venue	WCE Score	Ess Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Essendon StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
15	TD	76	108	-32	15.4	10.6	247	634	-386
2001									
6	TD	70	158	-88	14.3	9.3	273	756	-483
21	SUB	47	136	-89	16.2	12.5	303	455	-153
2002									
15	SUB	90	63	27	12.0	13.4	460	358	101
EF	TD	78	111	-33	11.8	14.1	490	398	93
2003									
10	TD	106	128	-22	11.1	9.1	488	662	-175
2004									
3	TD	131	137	-6	9.1	11.9	592	513	78
Average		85	120	-35	12.8	11.5	407	539	-132

The Dons have enjoyed sustained success against the Eagles in recent years, with 6 wins from their past 7 games. This apparent dominance has plenty to do with the fact that West Coast was also-rans in 2000, and 2001, while the Bombers have been a power house over the last 4 years. Another factor which has played a big part here is Telstra Dome. Not sure how the fixture is worked out by the AFL, but 5 games out of 7 at Telstra Dome for the Bombers against an Interstate side will ensure they have sustained dominance against that side. The positive for the Eagles is their increasing StatRating™ figures along the way. They have been steadily increasing against the Bombers since 2000, and have started to kick some decent scores against them, as the Bombers make triple figures a standard against West Coast. The fact that West Coast will host the Bombers this week at Subiaco should be enough to have them start favourite against a side that won last week by 12 goals....

West Coast – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
11	TD	Coll	75	93	-18	14.5	12.3	304	366	-61
12	SUB	Adel	108	76	32	8.7	13.9	607	303	304
13	MO	Kang	75	108	-33	12.6	9.8	367	523	-157
14	SUB	Geel	51	49	2	18.9	18.4	254	229	26
15	YP	Haw	86	82	4	12.1	12.5	413	391	22
Average			79	82	-3	13.3	13.4	389	362	27

The Eagles seem to make a habit of playing off in some close games. They have been involved in 7 games this year where the final result was 10 points or less. They have won 4 and lost 3. Last week against the Hawks, they never looked like losing the game until the final 5 minutes. They were still 22 points up at the 20 minute mark of the final quarter before a flurry of goals to the Hawks. It was still 10 points when the Siren sounded before Everitt put the goal through to make it 4 points. It's difficult to measure this kind of game for the Eagles, as high StatRating™ figures are not the norm at York Park. Their StatRating™ of 413 was a lot better than last year's effort of 300, but still low in comparison to other sides in the League. There wasn't too much data in years gone past at these levels from the Eagles, but the table below highlights the limited data available.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
15	SUB	Ess	90	63	27	12.0	13.4	460	358	101
16	SUB	Freo	70	100	-30	17.1	12.3	222	406	-184
2003										
13	SUB	Kang	76	67	9	12.5	17.5	359	262	97
14	SCG	Syd	84	92	-8	10.9	11.6	432	476	-44
2004										
15	YP	Haw	86	82	4	12.1	12.5	413	391	22

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 West Coasts StatRating™ in the following week. Not too much to go on, and varying performances on what we can see here. Their round 16 2002 games against Fremantle was poor, and considering a StatRating™ of 222, their score line of 70 could have been a lot lower. They improved markedly in round 14 2003 to just go down to Sydney by 8 points in an improved effort. Almost double the StatRating™ at 432, yet only 14 points more on the scoreboard at 84 points. There doesn't seem to be much consistency here, and some similar figures from 2004 would have added more conviction. Hard to make a recommendation from these figures alone.

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
2004										
11	MCG	Haw	154	80	74	8.3	12.7	639	395	244
12	TD	Bris	96	162	-66	11.5	8.7	435	770	-335
13	MCG	Melb	69	95	-26	14.9	10.8	328	508	-180
14	TD	Kang	79	100	-21	14.9	9.4	342	564	-221
15	MCG	Rich	155	77	78	9.7	14.5	590	393	197
Average			111	103	8	11.9	11.2	467	526	-59

The Bombers ended their 3 game losing streak with a comprehensive smacking against the Tigers last week. Comprehensive, in that the Bombers were down at half time, and kicked the winning margin in the second half! In doing so they did rate very high, and are nearing the magical 600 StatRating™ that usually accompanies a loss in the following week. Both the Tigers and the Hawks have provided teams with losses in the following weeks, and perhaps the Bombers aren't out of the woods just yet. They have been at these levels many times in recent years, and the table below highlights their current playing levels.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
14	TD	WB	118	118	0	8.5	10.6	726	536	190
15	SUB	WCE	63	90	-27	13.4	12.0	358	460	-101
2003										
5	MCG	Coll	147	81	66	9.7	16.0	580	294	286
6	SUB	Freo	100	131	-31	11.2	10.7	403	493	-90
EF	SUB	Freo	101	57	44	12.3	17.8	456	252	204
SF	AAMI	Port	44	83	-39	20.3	13.1	246	382	-136
2004										
4	MCG	Carl	117	80	37	9.0	13.0	633	338	295
5	MCG	Coll	112	79	33	11.5	12.3	444	381	63
11	MCG	Haw	154	80	74	8.3	12.7	639	395	244
12	TD	Bris	96	162	-66	11.5	8.7	435	770	-335
15	MCG	Rich	155	77	78	9.7	14.5	590	393	197

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 Bombers StatRating™ in the following week. There is certainly more consistency in these figures for the Dons as there are for West Coast's current form. They have 5 games that match their current playing levels over the past 2 years, for a 1-4 win loss ratio. 3 of these games have been played interstate, while their most recent 2 were played in Melbourne. All the losses have been by decent margins, with their one win coming against an undermanned Collingwood on ANZAC day. Coincidentally, their losses have all been against Interstate sides, and perhaps West Coast can keep this form intact this week. The Bombers average StatRating™ over the past 2 years in the following week has been 377, with a slight increase this year of 440. Their average score line in these matches has been 83 to 109. Unless they can keep the West Coast scoring down to a minimum, it's represents a difficult assignment this week.

West Coast – Form at Subiaco

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	SUB	Freo	137	118	19	10.3	12.4	474	395	78
3	SUB	WB	113	81	32	10.5	11.2	440	448	-9
5	SUB	Bris	121	75	46	9.3	10.6	644	350	293
7	SUB	Kang	139	90	49	9.8	10.0	570	438	132
9	SUB	Haw	126	88	38	9.3	13.4	626	290	336
11	SUB	Syd	102	89	13	11.4	11.7	507	360	147
13	SUB	Adel	135	117	18	8.8	11.6	730	441	288
15	SUB	Ess	90	63	27	12.0	13.4	460	358	101
16	SUB	Freo	70	100	-30	17.1	12.3	222	406	-184
17	SUB	Coll	114	56	58	10.8	17.8	511	253	259
19	SUB	Melb	100	106	-6	12.1	10.9	429	552	-123
21	SUB	Port	65	103	-38	16.7	8.8	210	622	-412
		Average	109	91	19	11.5	12.0	485	410	75
2003										
1	SUB	Port	122	74	48	9.1	13.4	729	343	386
3	SUB	Stk	144	74	70	9.1	14.6	648	314	334
5	SUB	Freo	108	73	35	10.5	11.3	459	407	52
7	SUB	Geel	113	97	16	10.1	11.0	445	529	-84
9	SUB	Rich	124	72	52	9.6	15.3	574	255	319
11	SUB	WB	124	124	0	10.4	10.6	528	502	26
13	SUB	Kang	76	67	9	12.5	17.5	359	262	97
15	SUB	Carl	187	71	116	7.9	12.8	1,001	290	711
17	SUB	Haw	98	42	56	10.5	15.8	427	265	162
19	SUB	Adel	67	91	-24	15.8	10.7	234	468	-234
21	SUB	Melb	143	91	52	8.3	14.0	649	256	393
22	SUB	Freo	82	96	-14	10.6	10.4	499	433	65
		Average	116	81	35	10.4	13.1	546	360	186
2004										
2	SUB	Port	115	118	-3	9.3	9.9	615	453	162
4	SUB	Bris	79	76	3	13.8	11.4	253	518	-265
6	SUB	Freo	73	83	-10	16.2	12.2	284	401	-118
8	SUB	Syd	124	97	27	8.4	12.3	654	334	320
10	SUB	Rich	100	63	37	11.3	16.4	476	243	233
12	SUB	Adel	108	76	32	8.7	13.9	607	303	304
14	SUB	Geel	51	49	2	18.9	18.4	254	229	26
		Average	93	80	13	12.4	13.5	449	355	94

West Coast's form at Subiaco has been very good this year, with 5 wins and 2 losses from 7 games played. Their 2 losses have come from Port Adelaide and Fremantle, by a combined total of 13 points, while their average winning margin has been 20 points. Their own StatRating™ figures have varied greatly this year, ranging from 253 to 654. Looking back the years, West Coast seem to have a couple of 200's sprinkled in there at times, so not that worried about them appearing in this years figures. What they are good at, is keeping the opposition StatRating™ to a minimum. The 355 average this season is as low as it has been for opposition clubs at Subiaco, and the score line complements this. Not since round 2 against Port Adelaide has an opposition team been able to top 100 against West Coast. On the other hand, West has 4 100+ scores this year from their 7 games played.

Essendon – Form at Subiaco

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
6	SUB	Freo	62	89	-27	16.4	14.5	263	316	-53
15	SUB	WCE	63	90	-27	13.4	12.0	358	460	-101
		Average	63	90	-27	14.9	13.3	311	388	-77
2003										
6	SUB	Freo	100	131	-31	11.2	10.7	403	493	-90
EF	SUB	Freo	101	57	44	12.3	17.8	456	252	204
		Average	101	94	7	11.7	14.3	430	373	57

The Bombers finally chalked up a win at Subiaco last year, to end a 3 game losing streak at this ground. Their figures improved in 2003, by kicking decent scores in both games, albeit against Fremantle, not West Coast. The Elimination Final against Fremantle last year could be deceiving, as the Bombers being seasoned finals campaigners showed the Dockers what Finals football is all about. Before then, their record at Subiaco wasn't too appealing. Their average StatRating™ in those 3 games was 342 with an average score of 75. They have a consistent average losing margin of 28 points, so it will be interesting to see what figures they can return this week.

West Coast - Games against Top 8 sides

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WCE Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	West Coast StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
2	SUB	Port	115	118	-3	9.3	9.9	615	453	162
3	TD	Ess	131	137	-6	9.1	11.9	592	513	78
4	SUB	Bris	79	76	3	13.8	11.4	253	518	-265
7	MCG	Melb	73	122	-49	16.2	10.1	297	563	-266
8	SUB	Syd	124	97	27	8.4	12.3	654	334	320
9	TD	Stk	68	169	-101	10.9	7.6	348	827	-479
13	MO	Kang	75	108	-33	12.6	9.8	367	523	-157
14	SUB	Geel	51	49	2	18.9	18.4	254	229	26
		Average	90	110	-20	12.4	11.4	422	495	-73

The Eagles Top 8 record is as expected for a side just out of the 8. They have 3 wins and 5 losses, which is a good indicator of where they should be on the ladder. The pleasing aspect for the Eagles here is their form against Top 8 sides at Subiaco. Of the 4 games played here, they have beaten Brisbane, Sydney, and Geelong, with a 3 point loss to Port Adelaide. Doesn't look all that bad on their CV. Their average StatRating™ in those games is 444 to the oppositions 384, and average score line of 92 to 85. These figures look a lot better than their average against Top 8 sides played at Interstate venues.

Essendon - 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
2004										
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
12	TD	Bris	96	162	-66	11.5	8.7	435	770	-335
13	MCG	Melb	69	95	-26	14.9	10.8	328	508	-180
14	TD	Kang	79	100	-21	14.9	9.4	342	564	-221
Average			82	118	-36	12.9	9.9	397	590	-193

Here's a real eye opener for Bomber supporters. Of the 7 Top 8 sides that the Bombers have played, they have 1 win and 6 losses. Of the 7 games that they have played, 6 have been at either the MCG or Telstra Dome. Only 1 game, round 1 at AAMI Stadium against Port Adelaide has been played outside of Melbourne. The West Coast Eagles are not in the Top 8 at the moment, but have better form against these sides than the Bombers do. Their average score line in these last 4 losses has been 85, with an average StatRating™ of 399. Given where West Coast sits on the ladder, and the Eagles form against Top 8 sides, there's no reason for this form to alter this week, especially at Subiaco.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 6-1 in Essendons favour, with 5 of the 7 games played at Telstra Dome since 2000.
- West Coast's current playing levels have varied in recent years, and make it difficult to predict a StatRating™ and score line this week.
- The Bombers current playing levels suggest they have hit a peak last week. From 5 games played at these levels in the past, they have a 1 -4 win loss ratio.
- West Coast has a 5-2 win loss ratio at Subiaco this year. They have been able to restrict the opposition to an average StatRating™ of 355 and an average score line of 80.
- The Bombers record at Subiaco is 1-3 over the past 2 years. Their only win was against Fremantle in last years Elimination Final. Prior to that, their average losing margin was 28 points.
- The Eagles form against Top 8 sides is 3-5, but more importantly, and 3-1 at Subiaco.
- The Bombers form against Top 8 sides is 1-6, with 6 of the 7 games played in Melbourne.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

West Coast \$1.60
Essendon \$2.30

At the Line

West Coast \$1.90 (-10.5 points)
Essendon \$1.90 (+10.5 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 West Coast (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 10 points. In Essendon's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 10 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 11 points or more, then you collect.

The Eagles deserve their favouritism in this game, as they are clearly a better side at home than when they travel. This is clearly shown in their record at Subiaco, as well as their form against Top 8 sides at Subiaco. The Bombers have been at these levels many times in the past and failed. Their form against Top 8 sides is remarkable, and this trip interstate represents only their 3rd this year. They got thumped by Port Adelaide at AAMI stadium in round 1, and then somehow crushed Adelaide at the same venue in round 8. There's no doubting the Bombers lifted last week to respect their Captain and leader in his 200th game. Unfortunately, they don't have an out of sorts Richmond at the MCG to contend with this week. An away win, against West Coast at Subiaco is always a hard task, made even harder here by high StatRating™ figures posted by the Bombers last week. Have to go with West Coast.

RECOMMENDATION: Given their average winning margin at Subiaco, West Coast should be able to cover the line. West Coast -10.5 points at the line 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.

West Coast Predicted StatRating™: 460– 520

Points Range: 98 – 110

Essendon Predicted StatRating™: 350 – 410

Points Range: 74 – 86

Considering there's already a 10 point line in this game, it doesn't leave much room if the spread comes in at around 13 points. This represents a worst case scenario on the predicted scores, but there is enough supporting stats to recommend a **4 star** rating on this game.

ACTUAL SCORE: West Coast 18.9.117 (407) Essendon 10.13.73 (357)

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