

Kangaroos vs. Hawthorn

Head to Head – Kangaroos vs. Hawthorn

Round	Venue	Kang Score	Haw Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Hawthorn StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
8	MCG	67	128	-61	13.9	10.2	397	713	-316
SF	MCG	110	100	10	9.6	11.7	696	427	269
2001									
12	MCG	98	101	-3	9.6	11.8	653	407	247
2002									
6	MCG	87	155	-68	12.9	10.7	364	635	-271
21	MCG	119	104	15	8.7	11.7	622	480	142
2003									
7	TD	117	89	28	10.5	12.2	456	452	4
20	TD	96	110	-14	10.7	11.0	366	480	-114
2004									
2	MCG	103	74	29	11.2	15.7	501	325	176
Average		100	108	-8	10.9	11.9	507	490	17

The Kangaroos and Hawks have played some great games in the past 4 years, with 4 wins apiece. They've taken turns at winning and losing games against each other in the past, with the Roos slightly in front in recent times with a 3-2 record against the Hawks since 2002. Averages between these sides are very close, with only 8 points separating the past 8 games. StatRating™ figures are also very close, as both teams hover around the 500 mark. It's difficult to see these figures remaining so close this week, with the Hawks form being dreadful this year. The Kangaroos have their sights set on a finals berth, and with this in mind should start very short favourites against the Hawks this week.

*****Match analysis was completed on Wednesday morning awaiting final review for posting Wednesday evening. Update had been included on final pages*****

Kangaroos – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
12	SS	Geel	84	94	-10	9.7	11.8	445	374	70
13	MO	WCE	108	75	33	9.8	12.6	523	367	157
14	TD	Ess	100	79	21	9.4	14.9	564	342	221
15	SUB	Freo	96	79	17	12.0	16.8	392	322	70
16	Optus	Carl	62	70	-8	15.6	10.8	302	426	-124
Average			90	79	11	11.3	13.4	445	366	79

The Kangaroos stumbled badly last week against the Blues, undoing all their hard work against the Dockers in Subiaco a week earlier. Whether it was coming off an emotional high from beating Fremantle after being 4 goals down, fronting up to their old coach in Denis Pagan, or just taking it a little easy after seeing the Blues get crushed by Port Adelaide the previous week is something that we will never know. They had many players down on the day, and couldn't get any fluency in their game. While they were still able to keep the opposition score down to a minimum, it was the Kangaroos lowest score for the season, and not far off their lowest StatRating™ of 287. These figures have to represent a bottoming out for the Kangaroos, and barring a late season form slump, the only way is up from here on in. They have reached these figures before in the current year, and the table below highlights their current form during the 2004 season.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
7	TD	Bris	76	120	-44	15.0	11.1	328	524	-196
8	TD	Port	140	48	92	9.3	21.8	631	193	439
10	TD	Coll	65	92	-27	14.0	10.7	287	447	-160
11	TD	Rich	154	80	74	8.9	13.0	604	331	273
16	Optus	Carl	62	70	-8	15.6	10.8	302	426	-124

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 Kangaroos StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Kangaroos latest form. As mentioned previously, the Kangaroos have hit these levels twice before this year. They have a round 7 44 point loss to Brisbane, and a round 10 27 point loss to the Magpies, both at Telstra Dome. It indicates that the 8 point loss at the hands of the Blues could have been a lot worse had the Blues kicked truly. The venue didn't seem to be the reason in this case as they have come back on both occasions to record huge wins in the following week. A 92 point win against Port Adelaide followed by a 74 point win against Richmond is form that is hard to ignore here. They have been able to post StatRating™ figures in the 600's in the following week, and given some firm conditions at the MCG, will be looking to repeat that performance this week.

Hawthorn – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Haw Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Hawthorn StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
12	TD	Carl	88	100	-12	14.7	9.7	320	422	-101
13	TD	Stk	61	127	-66	16.0	9.9	219	644	-425
14	MCG	Coll	75	140	-65	14.7	8.2	334	744	-409
15	YP	WCE	82	86	-4	12.5	12.1	391	413	-22
16	MCG	Port	53	105	-52	15.2	9.8	284	502	-218
Average			72	112	-40	14.6	9.9	310	545	-235

It's very hard to be enthused about the Hawks form this year. A combination of crippling injuries to senior players, along with diminishing confidence in decision making on the field means they will probably win the wooden spoon this year. They have not kicked a triple figure score since the opening round of the season, which is 16 weeks ago. Since round one their average losing margin has been 39 points, and their last 5 game averages are in line with that score. They're currently averaging 20 shots at goal per game, and allowing the opposition 30 shots at goal. They allow on average 9 more inside 50 entries to the opposition, and their conversion rate of shots on goal once inside 50 is 42 % to 57%. It's very hard to find any positives in their form, and they had a chance to get a lot closer to Port last week, considering Port was coming off a massive StatRating™ Margin of 428. It didn't eventuate, and they went down by 52 points. The table below highlights the Hawks current form from round 16, and how it compares with similar game played this year by the Hawks.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Haw Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Hawthorn StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
2	MCG	Kang	74	103	-29	15.7	11.2	325	501	-176
3	AAMI	Port	90	171	-81	10.0	8.2	562	732	-170
6	TD	Rich	83	84	-1	15.4	12.5	305	399	-93
7	TD	Geel	52	108	-56	18.8	8.5	196	615	-419
10	MCG	Adel	47	133	-86	14.4	9.0	284	642	-358
11	MCG	Ess	80	154	-74	12.7	8.3	395	639	-244
12	TD	Carl	88	100	-12	14.7	9.7	320	422	-101
13	TD	Stk	61	127	-66	16.0	9.9	219	644	-425
16	MCG	Port	53	105	-52	15.2	9.8	284	502	-218

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 Hawks StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Hawks latest form. The figures here look even worse when grouped like this. The Hawks have been at these levels on 4 occasions this year, and have been belted in the following week. Their StatRating™ Margin has ballooned in the latter part of the year, and their average losing margin when playing at these current levels is 69 points. Apart from a near season high StatRating™ against Port in round 3, their average StatRating™ has been 270 in the following week, with a scoreboard average of 64. Given the Kangaroos projected form line for this week, it could turn very ugly, and we may have a bloodbath on our hands.....

Kangaroos – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
6	MCG	Haw	87	155	-68	12.9	10.7	364	635	-271
9	MCG	Melb	107	111	-4	8.2	11.0	684	474	210
10	MCG	Ess	92	84	8	8.7	12.9	748	379	369
21	MCG	Haw	119	104	15	8.7	11.7	622	480	142
EF	MCG	Melb	84	122	-38	9.8	9.8	543	599	-56
Average			98	115	-17	9.6	11.2	592	514	78
2003										
1	MCG	Stk	96	70	26	11.7	16.8	496	293	204
15	MCG	Melb	101	94	7	13.2	14.3	371	414	-43
19	MCG	Freo	98	99	-1	13.0	12.1	455	397	58
Average			98	88	11	12.6	14.4	441	368	73
2004										
1	MCG	Adel	149	74	75	9.2	10.5	619	438	181
2	MCG	Haw	103	74	29	11.2	15.7	501	325	176
3	MCG	Carl	111	106	5	9.9	12.0	486	400	86
9	MCG	Melb	78	96	-18	13.0	10.7	399	475	-76
Average			110	88	23	10.8	12.2	501	410	91

The Kangaroos form at the MCG this year has been good, with 3 wins from 4 games played. A little annoyed that all their form at this ground was in the first 3 weeks, against lowly teams, but they did get to within 18 points of Melbourne here in round 9, which was a good effort. They have always maintained an average score close to 100 at this ground over the past 3 years, with their lowest score being 78 against Melbourne in round 9 this year. Before that, it was 84 against Melbourne in the 2002 Elimination final. The average opposition score of 88 in the past 2 seasons has enabled the Kangaroos to maintain a 5-2 winning average over the last 7 games played here. All figure here point to the Kangaroos registering a score well over 100 this week.

Hawthorn – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Haw Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Hawthorn StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	MCG	Melb	103	129	-26	8.7	9.8	574	511	63
4	MCG	Coll	63	104	-41	15.7	10.0	273	482	-208
5	MCG	Rich	125	83	42	9.8	12.8	571	366	205
6	MCG	Kang	155	87	68	10.7	12.9	635	364	271
7	MCG	Geel	130	78	52	11.0	12.0	520	365	154
8	MCG	Carl	89	80	9	11.0	14.5	483	290	194
12	MCG	Ess	65	72	-7	20.3	12.4	212	387	-175
14	MCG	Syd	74	64	10	16.4	15.0	299	320	-21
16	MCG	Melb	93	67	26	14.0	13.2	330	387	-57
17	MCG	Bris	68	124	-56	16.5	8.7	291	630	-339
19	MCG	Coll	105	97	8	9.6	10.5	550	447	103
20	MCG	Rich	93	107	-14	11.3	10.0	468	458	10
21	MCG	Kang	104	119	-15	11.7	8.7	480	622	-142
		Average	97	93	4	12.8	11.6	437	433	4
2003										
1	MCG	Melb	100	106	-6	10.8	12.0	539	426	113
4	MCG	Syd	110	68	42	10.7	15.2	457	296	161
5	MCG	Rich	95	115	-20	10.7	11.4	506	367	138
8	MCG	Ess	53	106	-53	21.4	10.0	164	622	-458
10	MCG	Stk	90	118	-28	13.5	9.5	305	631	-326
11	MCG	Adel	75	70	5	14.4	13.2	383	311	73
12	MCG	Coll	84	51	33	11.7	13.4	436	321	114
14	MCG	WB	154	83	71	7.6	11.9	759	438	321
16	MCG	Melb	113	106	7	10.5	9.5	487	567	-80
18	MCG	Port	80	84	-4	10.6	10.9	407	469	-62
21	MCG	Carl	138	64	74	8.8	17.9	740	240	500
22	MCG	Rich	78	74	4	12.8	14.3	399	308	90
		Average	98	87	11	11.9	12.4	465	416	49
2004										
1	MCG	Melb	119	70	49	9.4	13.3	572	398	173
2	MCG	Kang	74	103	-29	15.7	11.2	325	501	-176
4	MCG	WB	97	109	-12	12.0	11.0	408	555	-146
10	MCG	Adel	47	133	-86	14.4	9.0	284	642	-358
11	MCG	Ess	80	154	-74	12.7	8.3	395	639	-244
14	MCG	Coll	75	140	-65	14.7	8.2	334	744	-409
16	MCG	Port	53	105	-52	15.2	9.8	284	502	-218
		Average	78	116	-38	13.4	10.1	372	569	-197

This is a great table that shows just how far the Hawks have fallen this year. After averaging 97 and 98 in successive years at this ground, that figure has now fallen to just 78. And their opposition average has climbed from 87 to 116! All up, that's close to a 50 point turnaround in the space of 1 year. Their average losing margin at this ground this year has been 53 points, and they have not been able to restrict the opposition score below 100 since round 1 this year. Very hard to see where the turnaround will come from for the Hawks.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 4-4 since 2000, with the Kangaroos slightly in front since 2002 with a 3-2 record.
- The Kangaroos current playing levels suggest they will bounce back from these season low figures this week. Their average winning margin from the 2 games played at the levels this year is 83 points.
- The Hawks current playing levels suggest they are in for another belting this week. Of the 4 games that they have played at these levels this year, their average losing margin in the following week has been 69 points.
- The Kangaroos have a 3-1 record at the MCG this year, with a scoreboard average of 110.
- The Hawks record at the MCG is 1-6 this year, with a scoreboard average of 74. Their average losing margin at the MCG this year is 53 points.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Kangaroos **\$1.40**
Hawthorn **\$2.90**

At the Line

Kangaroos **\$1.90 (- 18.5 points)**
Hawthorn **\$1.90 (+18.5 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 Kangaroos (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 18 points. In Hawthorn'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.

I cannot fathom why the Kangaroos are only seen as an 18 point line margin in this game by sporting bookmakers. Unless there is a deluge and the game is played out on a surface that resembles an ice hockey arena, the Kangaroos should win this game quite easily. They may have lost a good tagger at the tribunal, but on current form, and form at the ground, it would take an almighty turnaround for the Hawks to get close. There have been some strange results this year, and this would certainly take the cake if Hawthorn was able to get up and win this game. With so much at stake for the Roos, this is one game that should boost their percentage, and put them in the mix for a finals berth.

Update

The reason why the Kangaroos were at that price is a little clearer now... News of an impending coach sacking must have reached the offices of the price assessors, and they prepared themselves accordingly. We all know the effect a sacking can have on a playing group, as proven by the results of the round 14 games when 2 coaches departed. The Tigers were given little chance by the Bookmakers against Brisbane at the Gabba, and were sent out with a 51 point line margin at even money, and surprised many by only going down by 18 points. Adelaide wasn't given much of a chance against 2nd placed Melbourne at the time, but thrashed them by 72 points! So what about this week?

In order to test the theory of teams improving dramatically when the coach has been sacked, we'll take a closer look at both of the round 14 games.

As mentioned previously, the Tigers were given little chance of causing the biggest of football upsets at the Gabba. The Lions current form looked good, and there seemed no indication that the margin wouldn't be 10 Goals. They had just been beaten by Geelong at Skilled Stadium, and the table below represents similar form for the Lions at those current playing levels.

Brisbane – Similar form based on round 13 loss to Geelong

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
14	SUB	Freo	72	75	-3	13.3	13.0	347	399	-52
15	Gabba	Haw	93	81	12	12.7	11.1	395	396	-1
15	Gabba	Haw	93	81	12	12.7	11.1	395	396	-1
16	TD	Ess	86	94	-8	10.6	13.3	490	353	137
21	Gabba	Geel	123	86	37	12.1	13.3	412	428	-16
22	TD	WB	170	86	84	9.2	15.0	761	353	408
2004										
13	SS	Geel	65	92	-27	12.8	11.7	369	434	-66

Matches 14, 15, and 21 of season 2003 matched these current playing levels. They did have a huge win against the Western Bulldogs in round 22 at the business end of the season, but their performances in round 15 and 16 were not as good. Perhaps a StatRating™ closer to the 400's would be in order against the Tigers, rather than the 700 we are accustomed to by the Lions at the Gabba. They were also coming back from Skilled Stadium, and it may have been a useful pointer to know what their form was like in recent years as a guide to the coming week.

Brisbane – Form returning from Skilled Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
15	SS	Geel	128	59	69	11.4	13.6	481	308	173
16	Gabba	Carl	112	156	-44	9.6	8.3	488	842	-354
2001										
21	SS	Geel	110	67	43	10.0	11.7	431	462	-31
22	Gabba	Syd	93	62	31	11.5	15.9	461	271	190
2002										
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										
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
2004										
13	SS	Geel	65	92	-27	12.8	11.7	369	434	-66

While seen as a useless stat by some, there has been a correlation in the past of teams performing at a certain level in the following week after playing at an interstate venue. Here we can see that the Lions form in the following week was not as brilliant as expected. Their StatRating™ ranged between 348 and 507 (highlighted in green), which is very average for this side. These are just 2 of the tables supplied from the round 14 analysis that showed Brisbane may not get to a 600 – 800 StatRating™ at the Gabba against the Tigers. In the end, the final result was an 18 point win to Brisbane, with the StatRating™ figures of 517 to Brisbane, and 374 to the Tigers. The 517 StatRating™ is consistent with the form provided in the Tables above. Was the improved 18 point defeat of the Tigers caused by Danny Frawley stepping down, or consistent with projected figures based on form?

The second game containing a new coach was the Adelaide – Melbourne clash at AAMI Stadium. Let's dissect this game a little further.

Melbourne – Current form based on round 13 win against Collingwood

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
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
8	SS	Geel	87	101	-14	10.4	12.5	617	360	257
9	MCG	Kang	96	78	18	10.7	13.0	475	399	76
9	MCG	Kang	96	78	18	10.7	13.0	475	399	76
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

Games that matched Melbourne's current form were rounds 6, 8, 9 and 11. While their win/loss record at these levels was good, their StatRating™ was getting lower in the following weeks as the season rolled on. A StatRating™ 563 in round 7, then 475 in round 9, followed up by a 336 and 395. Based on these figures alone, we're looking at a high 300- low 400 in the game against Adelaide. Then we checked their record at the ground.

Melbourne – Form at AAMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
17	AAMI	Port	112	116	-4	10.3	8.8	388	747	-358
		Average	112	116	-4	10.3	8.8	388	747	-358
2003										
12	AAMI	Adel	65	138	-73	18.6	10.5	220	505	-285
20	AAMI	Port	98	112	-14	13.8	11.5	363	409	-47
		Average	82	125	-44	16.2	11.0	292	457	-166

Their round 17 loss by 4 points in 2002 was their best effort at this ground in the past 2 years, but may have masked their true playing style. In their last 3 attempts at this ground, they had registered StatRating™ figures of 388, 220, and 363. Coupled with their current form table, the projected StatRating™ figure for the coming week's game against the Crows was starting to look more like a 300 than a 400. And what was the end result? Melbourne StatRating™ in round 14 was 355 to Adelaide's 661. Again, was Melbourne's figure achieved by Neil Craig's promotion to Adelaide, or the fact that Melbourne was expected to rate in the vicinity of that figure?

I do not doubt that there is a certain "X" factor involved when the spot light is taken off the coach and put on the side. In the 2 games that have been affected by this situation this year, they put in improved efforts on the field, but there is enough supporting data to suggest the results could have been the same without the sackings. The problem for the Hawks is that any supporting information of an improved effort this week does not exist! Every table available for the games has been

scrutinized, without much joy for the Hawks. The sacking does take some gloss of the original bet, and only time will tell if they can rewrite history...

RECOMMENDATION: ~~Triple the stake on the win for the Kangaroos, and double stake the line, given it is at 18.5 points.~~ New recommendation is now single stake on win, and line at -18.5 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.

Kangaroos Predicted StatRating™: 560– 620

Points Range: 120 – 132

Hawthorn Predicted StatRating™: 280 – 340

Points Range: 60 – 72

~~With the line expected to be 18 points, the spread should come in around 22-24 points. That's quite a head start to give away, but there's compelling stats to suggest the Kangaroos should cover this margin. Need to keep a close eye on the weather here, but this has to be very close to a 5 star rating on this game.~~ Now rated as a **2 star** rating because of the controversy surrounding the Coaching position. Let's see how the game pans out!!!

ACTUAL SCORES: Kangaroos 22.11.143 (625) Hawthorn 9.9.63 (306)

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