

Sydney vs. Brisbane

Head to Head – Sydney vs. Brisbane

Round	Venue	Syd Score	Bris Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Brisbane StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
11	SCG	107	110	-3	9.5	10.2	568	645	-77
2001									
7	SCG	80	112	-32	14.3	9.4	365	832	-467
22	Gabba	62	93	-31	15.9	11.5	271	461	-190
2002									
1	SCG	87	110	-23	10.6	11.9	583	446	137
16	Gabba	79	117	-38	15.2	9.3	296	603	-308
2003									
7	SCG	98	79	19	12.5	10.3	295	507	-212
20	Gabba	90	76	14	14.1	10.4	306	501	-195
PF	TS	56	100	-44	15.3	9.7	255	503	-249
2004									
1	Gabba	78	80	-2	13.7	10.4	386	441	-55
	Average	82	97	-15	13.5	10.3	369	549	-180

There have been 9 games between these sides in the last 4 years, with only 2 wins for the Swans and 7 for the Lions. The Lions have always maintained a healthy StatRating™ advantage against Sydney, but this hasn't always guaranteed victory. During round 7 and round 20 of the 2003 season, the Swans were able to notch up 2 wins with almost identical StatRating™ figures. The Preliminary Final at Telstra Stadium produced the same set of stats for the match, but this time the result was a 44 point win in Brisbane's favour. The Swans have that knack of accurate kicking, and this is usually what distorts the ratings. Given the Lions 141 point win last week, they should start a short priced favourite against the Swans at the SCG.

Sydney – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
13	TS	Coll	85	79	6	12.9	9.8	349	409	-60
14	Optus	Carl	95	84	11	12.9	9.3	350	506	-156
15	SCG	Adel	58	45	13	12.9	15.3	380	267	113
16	SS	Geel	62	77	-15	14.0	11.5	286	339	-53
17	SUB	Freo	91	118	-27	14.0	11.1	363	443	-80
Average			78	81	-2	13.3	11.4	346	393	-47

The Swans have been operating within a very tight band of scores over the last 5 weeks, as can be seen by their 5 games average. The 118 that Fremantle scored against them last week was only the 5th 100 plus score kicked against them this year. Mind you they don't kick high scores themselves, as they have only reached 100 points 3 times this year. They were always going to be up against it against Fremantle last week, as it was their 2nd week on the road, at a venue that hasn't suited their playing style for years. The StatRating™ figures for the game were neither here nor there, as they continue to rate the same week in week out. The table below highlights this current form over this season for the Swans.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	Gabba	Bris	78	80	-2	13.7	10.4	386	441	-55
2	SCG	Freo	102	71	31	12.7	12.1	371	371	0
12	AAMI	Port	60	132	-72	14.0	10.3	329	468	-140
13	TS	Coll	85	79	6	12.9	9.8	349	409	-60
16	SS	Geel	62	77	-15	14.0	11.5	286	339	-53
17	SUB	Freo	91	118	-27	14.0	11.1	363	443	-80
17	SUB	Freo	91	118	-27	14.0	11.1	363	443	-80

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 Swans StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Swans latest form. The table indicates what has been fairly evident all year. They have kept a steady playing style all season, and rarely do they deviate from this style. They have 2 wins from 3 games at these levels, with both wins coming in Sydney. It's almost as though this side is governed by what form the opposition is in, rather than what they are going to kick. Their average StatRating™ in the following week has been 361 with an average score of 93. This relatively high score compared to the StatRating™ is attributable to their accuracy at goal in these games, which has been 62%. We'll have to analyze Brisbane's current form to see if this score is big enough to record a victory this week.

Brisbane – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
13	SS	Geel	65	92	-27	12.8	11.7	369	434	-66
14	Gabba	Rich	114	96	18	10.8	12.0	517	374	143
15	Gabba	WB	136	68	68	8.9	15.5	695	310	386
16	MCG	Coll	109	73	36	11.1	15.1	521	238	283
17	Gabba	Adel	189	48	141	8.0	15.2	813	322	491
Average			123	75	48	10.3	13.9	583	336	247

After an average first half against the Crows last week, the Lions decided it was time to strut their stuff. They pushed the gear stick well into overdrive, and systematically tore shreds off their prey to leave an empty carcass, in one of the most awesome displays seen over the last 5 years. It just doesn't seem possible that a side can kick 21.4 in a half of football? That's 25 shots at goal. Amazing as it may seem, it has been done before this year, but not by the Lions. How quickly we forget that back in round 10 at Telstra Dome, Stkilda's half time score was 19.6.120! That's 25 shots at goal within a half of football. History shows that the Saints then traveled across the border to the SCG to tackle the Swans, and record their first loss of the season. This high StatRating™ figure for the Lions could ensure that history repeats itself again this week. Let's take a look at the Lions current playing levels over the past 2 years in the table below.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
1	Gabba	Ess	104	61	43	8.9	15.4	768	305	463
2	AAMI	Port	86	76	10	14.1	11.6	332	422	-90
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
10	Gabba	Melb	123	63	60	10.3	20.4	602	225	377
11	TD	Stk	85	90	-5	14.7	13.6	307	419	-112
22	TD	WB	170	86	84	9.2	15.0	761	353	408
QF	MCG	Coll	51	66	-15	18.7	14.7	273	320	-48
2004										
3	Gabba	Coll	137	77	60	8.8	15.2	651	295	356
4	SUB	WCE	76	79	-3	11.4	13.8	518	253	265
5	Gabba	Haw	110	62	48	7.6	18.9	871	196	675
6	TD	StK	91	92	-1	14.3	10.7	349	521	-173
15	Gabba	WB	136	68	68	8.9	15.5	695	310	386
16	MCG	Coll	109	73	36	11.1	15.1	521	238	283
17	Gabba	Adel	189	48	141	8.0	15.2	813	322	491

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 Lions StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Lions latest form. Very, very interesting... The 2003 form is broken up into games where the Lions StatRating™ Margin is higher than the Opposition teams StatRating™. Of the 4 games that matched these criteria, they lost 3 and won only 1 game in the following week. Their average StatRating™ in the following week was 355 with an average score of just 75. This year, they also seem to trend in a similar fashion. Rounds 3, 4 and 5 are almost identical in StatRating™ figures to rounds 15, 16 and 17. Possessions per score, Opposition Possession per score, and StatRating™ Margins in those games are as close as can be for these 3 games. They faltered in round 6 by a point to the Saints, whilst registering a StatRating™ of 349. All of a sudden, the mid 300 StatRating™ that we're expecting from Brisbane this week means we have a game on our hands, and the Swans are a real chance to cause an upset!

Sydney – Form at SCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	SCG	Bris	87	110	-23	10.6	11.9	583	446	137
4	SCG	Kang	103	100	3	10.9	9.4	580	530	50
6	SCG	Melb	99	71	28	11.3	12.8	415	414	1
8	SCG	WB	90	159	-69	8.3	8.1	767	837	-69
12	SCG	Geel	99	101	-2	10.6	10.9	471	450	20
13	SCG	Freo	139	62	77	8.3	17.1	848	286	562
15	SCG	Port	92	94	-2	10.9	12.1	523	437	86
18	SCG	Adel	98	116	-18	11.8	10.6	414	586	-172
19	SCG	Kang	144	97	47	9.7	11.0	701	489	212
20	SCG	Stk	87	80	7	10.9	13.6	534	360	174
		Average	104	99	5	10.3	11.8	584	484	100
2003										
3	SCG	Adel	76	103	-27	11.9	9.3	395	592	-198
5	SCG	Melb	109	85	24	12.9	13.9	441	353	89
7	SCG	Bris	98	79	19	12.5	10.3	295	507	-212
8	SCG	Geel	112	73	39	10.8	14.9	379	361	18
12	SCG	WB	127	63	64	9.6	13.4	592	357	235
14	SCG	WCE	92	84	8	11.6	10.9	476	432	44
15	SCG	Stk	112	61	51	8.3	17.6	786	228	558
17	SCG	Freo	111	97	14	10.0	8.7	438	481	-42
19	SCG	Haw	93	110	-17	11.7	10.5	446	496	-50
		Average	103	84	19	11.0	12.2	472	423	49
2004										
2	SCG	Freo	102	71	31	12.7	12.1	371	371	0
3	SCG	Geel	73	67	6	11.4	14.5	385	248	137
7	SCG	Rich	54	67	-13	18.1	15.9	237	290	-53
9	SCG	Haw	80	79	1	10.9	12.6	394	374	20
10	SCG	WB	93	67	26	10.1	14.8	543	317	226
11	SCG	Stk	112	76	36	11.0	10.2	401	461	-60
15	SCG	Adel	58	45	13	12.9	15.3	380	267	113
		Average	82	67	15	12.4	13.6	387	332	55

Whilst the Swans have not been scoring high at the SCG, they still are a formidable unit to contend with at this ground. Since Paul Roos took charge of the Swans back in round 13 2002, they have only lost 5 of their 21 games here. Their biggest losing margin has been 27 points, and they have won 13 of their last 15 games at the SCG. Their strength has definitely been their ability to choke the opposition score at this venue, which sees it at an impressive 67 points. Remarkably, the highest score kicked against them this year has been 79 points, by Hawthorn in round 9. The average opposition StatRating™ of 332 is in line with the Lions projected StatRating™ this week, as is their average at the ground of 387.

Brisbane – Form at SCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	SCG	Syd	110	87	23	11.9	10.6	446	583	-137
Average			110	87	23	11.9	10.6	446	583	-137
2003										
7	SCG	Syd	79	98	-19	10.3	12.5	507	295	212
Average			79	98	-19	10.3	12.5	507	295	212

Not really enough information here to make a valid judgment on the chances of the Lions form at the SCG. They certainly coped well with the ground last year, even though they lost the game. Their StatRating™ of 507 was inline with the Swans average opposition StatRating™ at the time they played there, and again it was Sydney's accuracy that got them over the line in that game. 15.8.98 to 11.13.79 saw virtually the same number of scoring shots yet a 19 point margin.

Sydney – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	Gabba	Bris	78	80	-2	13.7	10.4	386	441	-55
2	SCG	Freo	102	71	31	12.7	12.1	371	371	0
3	SCG	Geel	73	67	6	11.4	14.5	385	248	137
4	MO	Kang	121	70	51	12.5	13.2	406	341	66
5	TS	Melb	99	111	-12	11.2	9.2	403	437	-34
11	SCG	Stk	112	76	36	11.0	10.2	401	461	-60
12	AAMI	Port	60	132	-72	14.0	10.3	329	468	-140
16	SS	Geel	62	77	-15	14.0	11.5	286	339	-53
17	SUB	Freo	91	118	-27	14.0	11.1	363	443	-80
Average			89	89	0	12.7	11.4	370	394	-24

The Swans have played 9 games against Top 8 sides this season, with only 3 of them being played at the SCG. They did have a home game against Melbourne, but it was played at Telstra Stadium. Their record is 4 wins and 5 losses, and justifies their current standing on the AFL ladder. They have won all 3 Top 8 games at the SCG, and considering their 9 game averages across the board, they have a chance to surprise the Lions in this game.

Brisbane – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Bris Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Brisbane StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	Gabba	Syd	80	78	2	10.4	13.7	441	386	55
6	TD	StK	91	92	-1	14.3	10.7	349	521	-173
7	TD	Kang	120	76	44	11.1	15.0	524	328	196
9	SUB	Freo	78	137	-59	12.6	9.7	334	649	-315
10	Gabba	Melb	123	83	40	9.3	12.2	604	336	268
11	Gabba	Port	123	86	37	10.0	11.7	590	412	178
13	SS	Geel	65	92	-27	12.8	11.7	369	434	-66
Average			97	92	5	11.5	12.1	459	438	21

The Lions have only played the Top 8 sides once each so far this season. They have 4 wins and 3 losses, with all their losses coming at interstate venues. In their losses, their average StatRating™ has been 351, with an average score of 78. Their only win interstate came against the Kangaroos at Telstra Dome, which topped off a 4 game losing streak for the Roos. Its quite possible that the Swans, with 2 consecutive losses could be in the middle of a losing streak, but given they have just played 2 interstate games themselves, its highly unlikely.

Sydney – Previous form after 2 weeks on the road

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
18	MCG	Melb	99	125	-26	11.6	10.3	458	584	-127
19	MCG	Coll	104	84	20	10.8	12.6	453	421	31
20	SCG	Kang	145	91	54	8.7	13.6	853	405	448
2001										
5	MCG	Melb	104	119	-15	11.1	10.7	477	532	-54
6	TD	Stk	94	120	-26	13.8	11.7	393	503	-110
7	SCG	Bris	80	112	-32	14.3	9.4	365	832	-467
15	MCG	Haw	98	77	21	10.3	13.5	552	290	262
16	AAMI	Adel	105	56	49	11.8	13.7	373	401	-28
17	SCG	WCE	83	48	35	11.1	15.9	524	352	171
2002										
2	Optus	Carl	111	33	78	12.8	21.9	376	205	171
3	AAMI	Adel	84	114	-30	13.2	9.3	296	636	-340
4	SCG	Kang	103	100	3	10.9	9.4	580	530	50
10	TD	Coll	84	95	-11	11.0	10.9	418	495	-76
11	SUB	WCE	89	102	-13	11.7	11.4	360	507	-147
12	SCG	Geel	99	101	-2	10.6	10.9	471	450	20
2003										
9	MO	Kang	59	84	-25	13.7	10.9	277	432	-156
10	MCG	Rich	104	72	32	11.7	11.7	446	350	96
11	TS	Ess	133	79	54	8.8	12.8	615	343	272
2004										
16	SS	Geel	62	77	-15	14.0	11.5	286	339	-53
17	SUB	Freo	91	118	-27	14.0	11.1	363	443	-80

Its certainly worth looking at the Swans recent form over the years to see how they have fared coming back to the SCG after 2 weeks on the road. This has happened 6 times over the past 5 years, with 4 wins and 2 losses. One of those losses, back in 2001 was at the hands of Brisbane, but the Swans form at that time was woeful, as they had 5 consecutive losses between rounds 4 and 8 in that year. The round 12 2002 loss was the straw that broke the back for Rodney Eade, as Paul Roos then took over in the following week in Round 13. There is no such turmoil this week for the Swans, and given their StatRating™ has been high in the following week, there's no reason to suggest the Swans should falter this week. Their average score at the SCG over the last 3 years when returning from a 2 week road trip has been 91.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 7-2 in Brisbane's favour since 2000
- The Swans current form has been steady, with 2 wins from 3 games at these current playing levels this year.
- The Lions may have peaked beyond repair after last weeks thrashing of the Crows. They have lost 4 of their 5 games at these levels over the past 2 years, and have an average StatRating™ of 350 in the following week.
- The Swans record at the SCG has been great since Paul Roos took over, with 13 wins from their past 16 games since 2003. Their average opposition score this year has been 67 points.
- The Lions have only played 2 games at the SCG in the past 2 years, and on both occasions their StatRating™ has been inline with the Swans opposition average.
- The Swans form against Top 8 sides at the SCG is 3 wins from 3 games played.
- The Lions form against Top 8 sides at interstate venues is 1 win and 3 losses from 4 games played.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Sydney **\$3.10**
Brisbane **\$1.35**

At the Line

Sydney **\$1.90 (+21.5 points)**
Brisbane **\$1.90 (- 21.5 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 Lions (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 21 points. In Sydney's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 21 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 22 points or more, then you collect.

Considering their huge win against Adelaide last week, we expected the price on Brisbane to be short. Most people were blown away by the ferocity of that win, and have declared the 2004 Premiership Cup a foregone conclusion. That may still be the case, but it's a different story to what's about to unfold this week. Sydney's steady form, along with Brisbane projected StatRating™ for the coming week means it's not a forgone conclusion this week. There's plenty of data in the previous 7 pages to suggest the Swans will be a big chance to topple Brisbane this week, and considering the 22 point head start, the line bet looks very appealing.

RECOMMENDATION: Single stake on the win for the Swans, and double stake the line, considering we are to be given a 21.5 point head start by the Bookmakers.

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.

Sydney Predicted StatRating™: 340– 390
Brisbane Predicted StatRating™: 340 – 400

Points Range: 82 – 94
Points Range: 72 – 84

The spread for this game should be close to 19 points head start. With the possibility of a close game here, there is definitely money to be made. If the Swans had form that showed they were about to bounce back to peak form, it would have been an all out plunge, but given their steady form and injury list, we rate it a **4 star** game.

ACTUAL SCORE: Sydney 12.11.83 (355)

Brisbane 7.9.51 (260)

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