

Port Adelaide vs. Melbourne

Head to Head – Port Adelaide vs. Melbourne

| Round | Venue | Port Score | Melb Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | OPossession Per Score | Port Adelaide StatRating™ | Melbourne StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|----------------|-------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2000 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | AAMI | 86 | 111 | -25 | 11.4 | 12.3 | 492 | 374 | 118 |
| 2001 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | AAMI | 88 | 68 | 20 | 13.3 | 13.6 | 391 | 369 | 22 |
| 2002 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | MCG | 82 | 109 | -27 | 9.4 | 10.9 | 489 | 422 | 67 |
| 17 | AAMI | 116 | 112 | 4 | 8.8 | 10.3 | 747 | 388 | 358 |
| 2003 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | MCG | 84 | 111 | -27 | 13.7 | 10.6 | 387 | 567 | -180 |
| 20 | AAMI | 112 | 98 | 14 | 11.5 | 13.8 | 409 | 363 | 47 |
| 2004 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | MCG | 71 | 124 | -53 | 14.1 | 9.2 | 311 | 596 | -284 |
| Average | | 91 | 105 | -14 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 461 | 440 | 21 |

There have been 7 games between these sides in the last 4 years, with 4 wins to the Demons and 3 to Port Adelaide. 3 of the 4 wins for the Dees have come at the MCG, a ground that Port Adelaide has found very hard to come to terms with. Port's biggest winning margin against Melbourne in this time has been only 20 points, but the round 17 2002 game at AAMI Stadium could have replaced that looking at the StatRating™ figures. While Port did lower their colours against the Bombers last week, they will most likely start favourite against Melbourne this week, given they don't drop too many games at home.

Port Adelaide – Current Form

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Port Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | OPossession Per Score | Port Adelaide StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|----------------|-------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2004 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | YP | Stk | 93 | 47 | 46 | 14.7 | 21.2 | 313 | 208 | 105 |
| 15 | AAMI | Carl | 123 | 40 | 83 | 10.1 | 15.9 | 616 | 188 | 428 |
| 16 | MCG | Haw | 105 | 53 | 52 | 9.8 | 15.2 | 502 | 284 | 218 |
| 17 | AAMI | WCE | 102 | 76 | 26 | 13.1 | 10.0 | 304 | 498 | -194 |
| 18 | TD | Ess | 79 | 119 | -40 | 12.8 | 10.9 | 408 | 488 | -80 |
| Average | | | 100 | 67 | 33 | 12.1 | 14.6 | 429 | 333 | 94 |

It was mentioned that Port was looking vulnerable against the Bombers last week, and they played accordingly. Their win against West Coast a week earlier masked their average playing style, signifying a flat spot was around the corner. 6 straight wins was enough to get them in contention for a Top 4 spot, but with pressure from Geelong, they'll need to keep winning to get the double chance come finals time. This loss, on the back of a negative StatRating™ Margin from a winning game has been done before this season by Port, as is highlighted in the table below.

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Port Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | OPossession Per Score | Port Adelaide StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------------|-------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2004 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 17 | AAMI | WCE | 102 | 76 | 26 | 13.1 | 10.0 | 304 | 498 | -194 |
| 18 | TD | Ess | 79 | 119 | -40 | 12.8 | 10.9 | 408 | 488 | -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 Ports StatRating™ in the following week. The figures in yellow represent Port winning the game, but not the StatRating™. The bottom figures show Ports latest form. Ports form from rounds 10 & 11 is almost copybook of that of rounds 17 & 18. After posting wins at home, in games they probably should have lost due to their negative StatRating™ Margin, they traveled interstate to both the Gabba and Telstra Dome for convincing losses. The remarkable stat here is the similarity in their scores and playing styles in both the round 11 and round 18 games. Their StatRating™ of 412 to 408, along with possession per score of 11.7 and 12.8 highlights this. Will they again be able to travel back to AAMI Stadium, to play a Top 8 side, and post a convincing win? Only time will tell...

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 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | AAMI | Adel | 73 | 145 | -72 | 11.6 | 9.7 | 355 | 661 | -306 |
| 15 | MCG | Stk | 146 | 89 | 57 | 9.4 | 11.0 | 543 | 409 | 134 |
| 16 | TD | WB | 93 | 55 | 38 | 9.3 | 13.7 | 611 | 343 | 268 |
| 17 | MCG | Rich | 126 | 70 | 56 | 9.6 | 13.5 | 601 | 342 | 259 |
| 18 | MCG | Haw | 107 | 63 | 44 | 10.4 | 17.2 | 680 | 274 | 406 |
| Average | | | 109 | 84 | 25 | 10.1 | 13.0 | 558 | 406 | 152 |

There seems to be no stopping the Demons at the moment, after another crushing win at their favourite ground, the MCG. The Hawks were in it up to ¾ time, at which point Melbourne decided enough respect had been shown to the Hawks new coach, and careered away to a comfortable 44 point win. It was the Demons 3rd 600 StatRating™ in a row, and their 3rd StatRating™ Margin over 200 in consecutive weeks. These are definitely the figures that we have been used to from the Lions in recent years, so watch out when finals come around. It's now the 3rd time this year that Melbourne has displayed this 3 game bonanza and the table below compares these games to their 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 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 5 | TS | Syd | 111 | 99 | 12 | 9.2 | 11.2 | 437 | 403 | 34 |
| 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 |
| 16 | TD | WB | 93 | 55 | 38 | 9.3 | 13.7 | 611 | 343 | 268 |
| 17 | MCG | Rich | 126 | 70 | 56 | 9.6 | 13.5 | 601 | 342 | 259 |
| 18 | MCG | Haw | 107 | 63 | 44 | 10.4 | 17.2 | 680 | 274 | 406 |

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. The bottom figures show the Demons latest form. This 3 game form has been pretty consistent this year. In rounds 2, 3 and 4, then rounds 6, 7, 8, and 16, 17, and 18, they were able to post a StatRating™ Margin of over 200 in consecutive weeks. They were able to win their round 5 game against the Swans by 12 points, but their StatRating™ came down considerably. It was also the first of 4 losing games for the Swans, as they entered an early season form slump. Their round 9 victory against the Kangaroos is also positive, but again their StatRating™ dipped to the 400's. On reflection, that wasn't such a great effort by the Dees, as the Kangaroos were coming off a season high StatRating™ of 631 after crushing Port by 92 points at Telstra Dome, and the Dee's were expected to do better. To rate only 475, on a ground where they have been brilliant this year is a valid pointer when assessing this form. Although their form is winning form, they may struggle against Port Adelaide at AAMI Stadium this week, unless Port is at the start of a losing streak...

Port Adelaide – Form at AAMI Stadium

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Port Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | OPossession Per Score | Port Adelaide StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------------|-------|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2002 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | AAMI | Kang | 73 | 83 | -10 | 16.2 | 11.4 | 265 | 439 | -174 |
| 4 | AAMI | Carl | 148 | 95 | 53 | 10.9 | 12.6 | 521 | 421 | 100 |
| 5 | AAMI | Adel | 90 | 82 | 8 | 12.7 | 11.6 | 308 | 370 | -61 |
| 6 | AAMI | WCE | 133 | 79 | 54 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 526 | 466 | 60 |
| 8 | AAMI | Geel | 129 | 54 | 75 | 11.4 | 15.0 | 463 | 307 | 156 |
| 9 | AAMI | Coll | 91 | 86 | 5 | 12.5 | 9.6 | 295 | 449 | -154 |
| 12 | AAMI | Rich | 154 | 70 | 84 | 8.8 | 14.5 | 705 | 270 | 435 |
| 13 | AAMI | WB | 161 | 115 | 46 | 9.9 | 12.0 | 634 | 400 | 234 |
| 17 | AAMI | Melb | 116 | 112 | 4 | 8.8 | 10.3 | 747 | 388 | 358 |
| 18 | AAMI | Stk | 105 | 63 | 42 | 11.1 | 14.6 | 441 | 344 | 97 |
| 20 | AAMI | Adel | 84 | 76 | 8 | 10.7 | 12.5 | 374 | 361 | 13 |
| 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 |
| SF | AAMI | Ess | 83 | 59 | 24 | 11.1 | 15.4 | 495 | 273 | 222 |
| | | Average | 111 | 83 | 28 | 11.3 | 12.6 | 480 | 376 | 104 |
| 2003 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | AAMI | Bris | 76 | 86 | -10 | 11.6 | 14.1 | 422 | 332 | 90 |
| 3 | AAMI | Haw | 128 | 71 | 57 | 8.8 | 17.4 | 599 | 206 | 393 |
| 5 | AAMI | Adel | 78 | 66 | 12 | 15.2 | 13.9 | 277 | 345 | -68 |
| 6 | AAMI | Rich | 84 | 57 | 27 | 13.3 | 15.3 | 330 | 262 | 68 |
| 8 | AAMI | Kang | 103 | 49 | 54 | 11.0 | 21.1 | 527 | 223 | 304 |
| 10 | AAMI | Coll | 98 | 73 | 25 | 10.8 | 11.2 | 408 | 412 | -4 |
| 11 | AAMI | Freo | 112 | 63 | 49 | 10.4 | 14.9 | 586 | 262 | 324 |
| 13 | AAMI | Syd | 99 | 60 | 39 | 10.0 | 12.8 | 502 | 314 | 188 |
| 16 | AAMI | WCE | 114 | 50 | 64 | 9.9 | 16.0 | 477 | 250 | 227 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| SF | AAMI | Ess | 83 | 44 | 39 | 13.1 | 20.3 | 382 | 246 | 136 |
| | | Average | 100 | 70 | 30 | 11.3 | 14.9 | 462 | 310 | 152 |
| 2004 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | AAMI | Ess | 158 | 62 | 96 | 8.5 | 12.5 | 740 | 391 | 350 |
| 3 | AAMI | Haw | 171 | 90 | 81 | 8.2 | 10.0 | 732 | 562 | 170 |
| 5 | AAMI | WB | 119 | 64 | 55 | 9.1 | 10.6 | 605 | 445 | 160 |
| 6 | AAMI | Coll | 101 | 84 | 17 | 10.8 | 13.8 | 520 | 377 | 143 |
| 7 | AAMI | Adel | 87 | 119 | -32 | 12.4 | 8.3 | 315 | 685 | -369 |
| 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 |
| 12 | AAMI | Syd | 132 | 60 | 72 | 10.3 | 14.0 | 468 | 329 | 140 |
| 15 | AAMI | Carl | 123 | 40 | 83 | 10.1 | 15.9 | 616 | 188 | 428 |
| 17 | AAMI | WCE | 102 | 76 | 26 | 13.1 | 10.0 | 304 | 498 | -194 |
| | | Average | 124 | 76 | 48 | 10.6 | 12.5 | 517 | 418 | 99 |

Port Adelaide has dropped only one game at home this year, and that was against co-tenants Adelaide in round 7. We'll see if they are able to keep their "one loss per year in the home and away season" record in tact, as they have done over the previous 2 years. Losses in the last 2 qualifying finals have meant their overall record is 33 wins and 5 losses from their last 38 games....Now THAT is impressive! They have also been able to kick some very decent scores this year for some impressive averages. They will be hard to beat at home.

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 | -165 |
| 2004 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | AAMI | Adel | 73 | 145 | -72 | 11.6 | 9.7 | 355 | 661 | -306 |
| | | Average | 73 | 145 | -72 | 11.6 | 9.7 | 355 | 661 | -306 |

Melbourne has lost their last 4 games at AAMI Stadium, and while they have scored over 100 in the past, has not been able to register a StatRating™ over 400. It could be difficult to assess the previous years, as they are playing far better this season, but the round 14 debacle against Adelaide doesn't help. Many will say that the addition of Neil Craig as coach was the reason the game blew out so far, and if that's the case, Melbourne will be able to prove they can play well at this venue this week. They've lost 6 of their last 8 since 2000, with their highest StatRating™ being 449 in that time.

Port Adelaide – Top 8 Form

| 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 |
| 14 | YP | Stk | 93 | 47 | 46 | 14.7 | 21.2 | 313 | 208 | 105 |
| 18 | TD | Ess | 79 | 119 | -40 | 12.8 | 10.9 | 408 | 488 | -80 |
| | | Average | 106 | 94 | 12 | 11.9 | 12.6 | 429 | 432 | -3 |

Port Adelaide has 5 wins and 3 losses against Top 8 sides this season, and considering only 3 have been played at AAMI Stadium, that quite an achievement. Their averages are quite even across the board, but become a little better when looking at AAMI Stadium form only. 3 games for 3 wins, at average StatRating™ of 528 to 408, and scores of 135 to 78. They'll be keen to atone their loss to the Dees earlier on in the year, just as the Bombers squared up the ledger against them last week.

Melbourne – Top 8 Form

| 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 |
| 15 | MCG | Stk | 146 | 89 | 57 | 9.4 | 11.0 | 543 | 409 | 134 |
| Average | | | 106 | 88 | 18 | 10.2 | 12.8 | 509 | 382 | 127 |

The Demons have only played Top 8 teams once, and their record is 5 wins and 2 losses. Only 3 have been at the MCG, with some good wins on the road this year for Melbourne against Sydney and Fremantle. They have far better averages in this category than Port does, and they'll need to transpose these figures onto AAMI Stadium this week if they are to be a chance of winning the Game.

Form after Peak performance against Hawthorn – 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 |
|-------|-------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 | AAMI | Haw | 171 | 90 | 81 | 8.2 | 10.0 | 732 | 562 | 170 |
| 4 | MCG | Melb | 71 | 124 | -53 | 14.1 | 9.2 | 311 | 596 | -284 |

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Bris Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | Opossession Per Score | Brisbane StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------|-------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Geel Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | Opossession Per Score | Geelong StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------|-------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 7 | TD | Haw | 108 | 52 | 56 | 8.5 | 18.5 | 615 | 196 | 419 |
| 8 | SS | Melb | 101 | 87 | 14 | 12.5 | 10.4 | 360 | 617 | -257 |

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Ess Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | Opossession Per Score | Essendon StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Stk Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | Opossession Per Score | Stkilda StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 13 | MCG | Haw | 127 | 61 | 66 | 9.9 | 16.0 | 644 | 219 | 425 |
| 14 | YP | Port | 47 | 93 | -46 | 21.2 | 14.7 | 208 | 313 | -105 |

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Kang Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | Opossession Per Score | Kangaroos StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------|-------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 17 | MCG | Haw | 143 | 63 | 80 | 8.6 | 16.0 | 625 | 306 | 319 |
| 18 | AAMI | Adel | 42 | 49 | -7 | 15.9 | 13.3 | 226 | 428 | -202 |

| Round | Venue | Opp Team | Melb Score | Opp Score | Game Result | Possession Per Score | Opossession Per Score | Melbourne StatRating™ | Opposition StatRating™ | StatRating™ Margin |
|-------|-------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 18 | MCG | Haw | 107 | 63 | 44 | 10.4 | 17.2 | 680 | 274 | 406 |

This is one stat they may have escaped the average Joe, but seems consistent enough to warrant deeper consideration. All these 7 games represent Top 8 sides that have registered a StatRating™ higher than 600 against this years easy beats the Hawks. The figure highlighted in yellow is followed up by results in the next week, which shows the winning/losing margin in red, and their StatRating™ in green. What an amazing occurrence! Each of these teams has fronted up to a Top 8 side in the following week (Kangaroos excepted!) and most have traveled interstate as well. Their average StatRating™ in the following week has been 315 to the oppositions 541. Geelong is the only side to win coming back from these peak conditions, but lost the game on StatRating™, with figures of 360 to 617. Melbourne fits the mould this week, as they are traveling interstate, to play a Top 8 side, after post a StatRating™ of 600 against Hawthorn in the previous week! Let's sit back and see what eventuates this week.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 4-3 in Melbourne's favour since 2000
- Ports current form suggests they can bounce back to winning form this week. Their most recent efforts in round 17 & 18 have mirrored that of rounds 10 & 11 of this year.
- The Demons have replicated a 3 game sequence that has been consistent all year. Whilst they have walked away winners on 2 other occasions, their StatRating™ has dropped in each game, and could pose some problems this week.
- Ports record at AAMI Stadium demonstrates one of the best home ground advantages at the moment. They have lost only 5 of their last 38 games here since 2002.
- The Demons form at AAMI Stadium has been only fair since 2002. They have lost 6 of their last 8 games here since 2000, and average a StatRating™ in the mid 300's. Their highest StatRating™ since 2000 is 449.
- Port Adelaide's from against Top 8 sides at AAMI Stadium is 3 wins from 3 games played.
- The Demons form against Top 8 sides at interstate venues is 2 wins and 1 loss from 3 games played.
- Hawthorn has proved to be a wolf in sheep's clothing this year, as most clubs that have celebrated a StatRating™ over 600 against them have fallen in the following week.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Port Adelaide \$1.65
Melbourne \$2.25

At the Line

Port Adelaide \$1.90 (- 8.5 points)
Melbourne \$1.90 (+8.5 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 Port Adelaide (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 8 points. In Melbourne's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 8 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 9 points or more, then you collect.

There's a great chance that Port could add another win to their imposing home ground record, and bring Melbourne back to a 4 way tie for the top of the ladder position. Melbourne's expected low this week, coupled with their average form at AAMI Stadium, and the remarkable Hawthorn situation are enough to suggest that Port should take this game out. They are giving away a 9 point head start, but should be able to cover this.

RECOMMENDATION: Single stake on the line, as we need to give the Dees a 8 point head start in this game. Port Adelaide -8.5 @ \$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.

Port Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 470– 520

Points Range: 100 – 112

Melbourne Predicted StatRating™: 360 – 420

Points Range: 77 – 89

The spread for this game should be close to 12 points which doesn't leave much room for juicy odds as the last couple of weeks have thrown up. We'll have to keep an eye out for the weather forecast, but if fine conditions prevail, we rate it a **4 star** game.

ACTUAL SCORE: Port Adelaide 18.17.125 (652) Melbourne 6.16.52 (392)

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