

Essendon vs. Collingwood

Head to Head – Essendon vs. Collingwood

Round	Venue	Ess Score	Coll Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Collingwood StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
7	MCG	140	100	40	10.4	11.8	654	517	137
22	MCG	97	78	19	10.4	12.7	538	402	136
2001									
5	MCG	103	95	8	9.6	11.7	468	411	57
20	MCG	107	87	20	9.6	15.4	594	312	283
2002									
5	MCG	33	66	-33	22.8	12.7	193	371	-178
20	MCG	126	71	55	11.4	11.8	467	383	84
2003									
5	MCG	147	81	66	9.7	16.0	580	294	286
22	MCG	67	83	-16	12.9	12.6	364	412	-48
2004									
5	MCG	112	79	33	11.5	12.3	444	381	63
Average		104	82	22	12.0	13.0	478	387	91

There have been 9 games between these sides in the last 4 years, with a commanding 7 wins to the Bombers and 2 to the Pies. These 2 wins for Collingwood came about in 2002 and 2003; years where the Pies played off for September glory. With this type of win/loss ratio, it's no surprise to see the stats heavily favoured in the Bombers direction. The ANZAC day round 5 game in 2002, played in pouring rain, is the only real blotch on the stats sheet for the Bombers here. Their other loss, in round 22 last year was also played in extremely windy conditions. These conditions seem to be the downfall of the Bombers winning chances this week, but if conditions are OK, they should produce the goods. Given their terrible loss to Carlton in wet conditions last week, and Collingwood's inspired win against Fremantle at Subiaco, the Bombers will enter this game only slight favourite.

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										
15	MCG	Rich	155	77	78	9.7	14.5	590	393	197
16	SUB	WCE	73	117	-44	13.7	12.8	357	407	-50
17	TD	Stk	92	127	-35	12.4	12.3	330	465	-135
18	TD	Port	119	79	40	10.9	12.8	488	408	80
19	MCG	Carl	57	74	-17	16.6	11.2	265	464	-199
Average			99	95	4	12.7	12.7	406	427	-21

At the start of last week's game, all talk from their supporters was about securing a home Final for the Bombers. Fast forward 2 ½ hours, and all talk is whether or not the Bombers will make the Finals! It certainly was one of their most lackluster performances this year, but much has been said of their inability to adapt to wet conditions, and it cost them again last week. Did anyone make mention that perhaps they were coming off an emotional high a week earlier? They had just beaten Port Adelaide, a side that they had lost to on the last 6 occasions by 40 points, in a game that nobody gave them a chance in? We'll never know what the real reason was for their poor performance, but at least we can track it, and look back in time to see how they have performed in the past when faced with these current circumstances.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
15	AAMI	Adel	49	90	-41	17.1	12.2	210	433	-223
16	TD	Bris	94	86	8	13.3	10.6	353	490	-137
2004										
2	TD	Stk	60	94	-34	16.6	11.6	266	509	-243
3	TD	WCE	137	131	6	11.9	9.1	513	592	-78
19	MCG	Carl	57	74	-17	16.6	11.2	265	464	-199

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 Essendon's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show Essendon's latest form. Their StatRating™ of 265 last week highlights just how bad their performance was. Only 2 games in the past 18 months stack up to any similarity here. The round 15 loss to Adelaide at AAMI Stadium was followed up with a win against Brisbane in round 16, and although they lost the game on StatRating™, it was a tough effort. Brisbane was just coming out of their slump, and the Bombers held on for a memorable win. The round 3 game against West Coast was another classic, and the stats from that game are almost identical to last week's figures. The Bombers shot out to a 48 point lead before being reeled in by West Coast. If not for a brilliant last quarter effort by James Hird, the Bombers would have fallen that night. Let's not forget that West Coast had lost to Port in round 2, and had beaten them on the Stats sheet by nearly 170 StatRating™ points, so they were primed for a win as well. Even though the Bombers winning margins were small in both games, it does show the Bombers can bounce back from these current levels.

Collingwood – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Coll Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Collingwood StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
15	TD	Geel	65	94	-29	15.3	9.1	281	539	-258
16	MCG	Bris	73	109	-36	15.1	11.1	238	521	-283
17	TD	WB	115	66	49	10.6	10.4	480	470	10
18	MCG	Rich	103	98	5	10.2	10.5	501	522	-21
19	SUB	Freo	106	73	33	9.1	14.6	552	246	306
Average			92	88	4	12.1	11.2	410	460	-49

Just as Bomber fans were predicting a win and securing a home final, the same talk was running through the stands at Subiaco out West as Fremantle stepped onto the ground. You could have sworn both teams had swapped jumpers as Collingwood handed the Dockers a football lesson. Only inaccuracy on the scoreboard prevented the margin being a 12 goal thrashing. A StatRating™ of 552 is usually not enough to suggest a peak, but the StatRating™ Margin of 306 does. The StatRating™ Margin eclipsed Fremantle's total StatRating™ for the game signaling a peak performance for the Pies, and anyone watching the game could not deny the intensity that Collingwood applied to Fremantle all night. The question this week will be, can they produce that same intensity this week? The table below highlights games in the past where Collingwood has played at similar levels.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Coll Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Collingwood StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
6	TD	Stk	111	28	83	10.8	20.2	546	129	417
7	TD	WB	73	63	10	16.4	12.3	293	447	-154
16	MCG	Rich	89	49	40	11.3	19.1	406	193	213
17	SUB	WCE	56	114	-58	17.8	10.8	253	511	-259
18	MCG	Carl	141	33	108	8.6	19.2	666	156	510
19	MCG	Haw	97	105	-8	10.5	9.6	447	550	-103
2003										
14	TD	Kang	126	50	76	10.4	18.2	512	214	298
15	MCG	Freo	99	58	41	14.2	12.3	395	405	-10
16	MCG	Rich	131	62	69	10.3	17.7	515	243	272
17	MCG	Carl	135	62	73	8.9	10.6	628	482	147
21	TS	Syd	99	81	18	9.7	15.3	627	287	340
22	MCG	Ess	83	67	16	12.6	12.9	412	364	48
2004										
14	MCG	Haw	140	75	65	8.2	14.7	744	334	409
15	TD	Geel	65	94	-29	15.3	9.1	281	539	-258
19	SUB	Freo	106	73	33	9.1	14.6	552	246	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 Collingwood's StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Pies latest form. At first, the figures look promising, with 4 wins and 3 losses over the past 2 years. On closer inspection, the wins in 2003 are not as convincing as first thought. Fremantle were coming off an emotional high against beating Brisbane a week earlier, and did not win many games interstate. The StatRating™ figures in that game show the Pies were fortunate to win. The Round 17 win against Carlton was great, but the Blues lost their last 10 games by an average of 74 points. The round 22 win against Essendon was also fortunate, as the Bombers had beaten Fremantle a week earlier, and rated 616 with a StatRating™ Margin of 346, so the Bombers were also primed to lose. There is one constant in all the Magpies losses in this time. West Coast's StatRating™ a week earlier was 222. Hawthorn's StatRating™ a week earlier was 243. Geelong's StatRating™ a week earlier was 229. All these sides were coming off low figures and ready to bounce back. And the Don's last week? They rated 265....

Essendon – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	MCG	Geel	126	76	50	11.1	16.0	632	326	306
2	MCG	Rich	112	60	52	10.5	15.1	552	325	228
5	MCG	Coll	33	66	-33	22.8	12.7	193	371	-178
7	MCG	Carl	87	62	25	11.2	17.4	437	287	149
10	MCG	Kang	84	92	-8	12.9	8.7	379	748	-369
12	MCG	Haw	72	65	7	12.4	20.3	387	212	175
17	MCG	Rich	54	53	1	18.4	19.1	271	289	-17
20	MCG	Coll	126	71	55	11.4	11.8	467	383	84
22	MCG	Carl	92	37	55	10.6	26.3	596	156	440
		Average	87	65	22	13.5	16.4	435	344	91
2003										
2	MCG	Melb	112	75	37	11.7	11.5	409	503	-95
3	MCG	Carl	94	105	-11	10.8	8.9	480	674	-194
5	MCG	Coll	147	81	66	9.7	16.0	580	294	286
7	MCG	Rich	42	84	-42	15.4	10.3	300	467	-167
8	MCG	Haw	106	53	53	10.0	21.4	622	164	458
17	MCG	Melb	88	71	17	14.0	13.7	406	351	55
18	MCG	Carl	90	56	34	12.0	12.9	475	381	94
20	MCG	Rich	92	53	39	11.8	17.9	508	285	223
22	MCG	Coll	67	83	-16	12.9	12.6	364	412	-48
		Average	93	73	20	12.0	13.9	460	392	68
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
6	MCG	Syd	108	98	10	9.6	11.1	522	433	89
11	MCG	Haw	154	80	74	8.3	12.7	639	395	244
13	MCG	Melb	69	95	-26	14.9	10.8	328	508	-180
15	MCG	Rich	155	77	78	9.7	14.5	590	393	197
19	MCG	Carl	57	74	-17	16.6	11.2	265	464	-199
		Average	110	83	27	11.4	12.2	489	416	73

The Bombers performances at the MCG have been very good this year, with 5 wins and 2 losses. Their average score when winning has been 129, while their losing scores have averaged 63. In fact both losing games have been in wet conditions (Surprise, Surprise!) The positive aspect of the Bombers performances at the MCG this year has been their opposition score. This is currently sitting at 83, and not one team has kicked over 100 against them this year. In fact Carlton, back in round 3 2003 is the only side to have kicked over 100 against the Dons at the MCG since 2002, in 25 games. That's an impressive record, and it seems that only the weather forecast stands between Essendon posting a high enough score to win the game. The opposition score has crept up over the past few years, as it has climbed from 65 to 73 to 83 this year. But at the same time, their score has lifted from 87 to 93 to 110, which has enabled the Bombers to continue with their 20 plus average winning margin at the MCG.

Collingwood – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Coll Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Collingwood StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	MCG	Rich	118	155	-37	9.3	7.4	495	646	-151
2	MCG	WCE	120	119	1	8.9	9.3	662	548	114
3	MCG	Carl	55	75	-20	11.9	13.0	395	255	140
4	MCG	Haw	104	63	41	10.0	15.7	482	273	208
5	MCG	Ess	66	33	33	12.7	22.8	371	193	178
11	MCG	Melb	126	75	51	10.9	12.2	466	400	66
15	MCG	Geel	99	127	-28	12.5	9.2	367	642	-275
16	MCG	Rich	89	49	40	11.3	19.1	406	193	213
18	MCG	Carl	141	33	108	8.6	19.2	666	156	510
19	MCG	Haw	97	105	-8	10.5	9.6	447	550	-103
20	MCG	Ess	71	126	-55	11.8	11.4	383	467	-84
21	MCG	Stk	77	66	11	12.4	16.3	396	332	65
22	MCG	WB	73	114	-41	12.5	11.2	367	580	-213
PF	MCG	Adel	91	63	28	11.2	16.1	466	273	193
GF	MCG	Bris	66	75	-9	13.0	11.2	355	516	-161
		Average	93	85	8	11.2	13.6	448	402	46
2003										
1	MCG	Rich	94	66	28	10.0	11.2	460	436	24
2	MCG	Carl	107	91	16	11.3	10.3	344	555	-211
3	MCG	Geel	116	69	47	10.6	12.6	482	342	140
5	MCG	Ess	81	147	-66	16.0	9.7	294	580	-286
11	MCG	Melb	133	77	56	9.9	10.1	543	512	31
12	MCG	Haw	51	84	-33	13.4	11.7	321	436	-114
15	MCG	Freo	99	58	41	14.2	12.3	395	405	-10
16	MCG	Rich	131	62	69	10.3	17.7	515	243	272
17	MCG	Carl	135	62	73	8.9	10.6	628	482	147
19	MCG	Bris	62	101	-39	12.2	11.6	378	432	-54
22	MCG	Ess	83	67	16	12.6	12.9	412	364	48
QF	MCG	Bris	66	51	15	14.7	18.7	320	273	48
PF	MCG	Port	112	68	44	10.6	11.7	546	342	204
GF	MCG	Bris	84	134	-50	10.4	9.1	405	568	-164
		Average	97	81	16	11.8	12.2	432	426	6
2004										
1	MCG	Rich	57	97	-40	14.9	11.9	255	453	-197
2	MCG	WB	106	97	9	8.5	9.6	637	523	114
5	MCG	Ess	79	112	-33	12.3	11.5	381	444	-63
7	MCG	Carl	80	89	-9	10.0	11.0	408	408	0
12	MCG	Melb	73	82	-9	13.9	12.4	344	395	-51
14	MCG	Haw	140	75	65	8.2	14.7	744	334	409
16	MCG	Bris	73	109	-36	15.1	11.1	238	521	-283
18	MCG	Rich	103	98	5	10.2	10.5	501	522	-21
		Average	89	95	-6	11.6	11.6	439	450	-11

The Pies record at the MCG is not as flash as the Bombers with 3 wins and 5 losses here this year. Their round 14 win against Hawthorn stands out as a peak, closely followed by their round 2 win against the Doggies. Their averages at this ground have remained constant over the past 2 years, and scoring for this week should reflect current averages. It's a little disappointing that their 3 wins this season at the MCG are against 3 of the bottom 4 teams, in the Western Bulldogs, Hawthorn and Richmond.

Essendon – Top 8 Form

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
10	TD	Freo	115	85	30	10.6	11.5	473	540	-67
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
17	TD	Stk	92	127	-35	12.4	12.3	330	465	-135
18	TD	Port	119	79	40	10.9	12.8	488	408	80
Average			90	112	-22	12.4	10.6	407	554	-147

Not so relevant in this game, but interesting nonetheless. The Bombers record against Top 8 sides is woeful, with only 3 wins in 10 games this year. When you consider that they have played 4 of the 5 interstate sides at home, a 30% strike rate is nowhere near the standard they need to be if they are to be a force come September. They won't need to worry about a Top 8 side this week, as they play a bottom 8 side in Collingwood. For the record, they have won 7 of the 9 games against bottom 8 sides this year.

Collingwood – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Coll Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Collingwood StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
3	Gabba	Bris	77	137	-60	15.2	8.8	295	651	-356
4	TD	Freo	54	88	-34	14.5	11.5	372	485	-114
6	AAMI	Port	84	101	-17	13.8	10.8	377	520	-143
8	TD	Stk	91	138	-47	9.9	8.3	413	662	-249
10	TD	Kang	92	65	27	10.7	14.0	447	287	160
12	MCG	Melb	73	82	-9	13.9	12.4	344	395	-51
13	TS	Syd	79	85	-6	9.8	12.9	409	349	60
15	TD	Geel	65	94	-29	15.3	9.1	281	539	-258
16	MCG	Bris	73	109	-36	15.1	11.1	238	521	-283
19	SUB	Freo	106	73	33	9.1	14.6	552	246	306
Average			79	97	-18	12.7	11.3	373	466	-93

The Pies Top 8 form is just as bad, with only 2 wins from 10 games this year. Last weeks effort against Fremantle was the first time they had been able to kick over 100 points against these sides, with their average StatRating™ still a worrying 373. In fact their average against Top 8 sides in Melbourne reads a score of 75 for and 96 against, with a StatRating™ of 349 for and 482 against. With the Pies coming off a high last week against Fremantle, it's difficult to see how they are going to turn this form around.

Collingwood -Form returning from Subiaco

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Coll Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Collingwood StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
17	SUB	Freo	119	90	29	12.3	11.8	335	449	-114
18	MCG	Rich	51	71	-20	13.7	13.7	300	270	30
2002										
12	SUB	Freo	79	90	-11	15.9	10.1	245	487	-241
13	TD	Kang	93	60	33	10.8	14.2	510	331	179
17	SUB	WCE	56	114	-58	17.8	10.8	253	511	-259
18	MCG	Carl	141	33	108	8.6	19.2	666	156	510
2004										
19	SUB	Freo	106	73	33	9.1	14.6	552	246	306

This is always a stat that could shed light on a future performance, and last year had an imposing strike rate. This year, teams have not been as affected with the "Perth Hoodoo" and have been able to come back from the "House of Pain" and win. Unfortunately, this doesn't hold many clues as to how the Pies may perform this week, as it is 2002 form, and Collingwood was bouncing back from a StatRating™ in the 200's against some ordinary opposition. For those of you that have spotted the enormous StatRating™ Margin that Collingwood had against Carlton in round 18 2002, and are wondering what they did the following week, they did in fact lose their round 19 game against Hawthorn by 8 points...

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 7-2 in Essendons favour since 2000
- Essendon's current form suggests they can bounce back to winning form this week. Their most recent effort in round 2 this year produced a spirited win against West Coast in round 3.
- The Magpies inspired and relentless win against Fremantle last week may have come at a price. Their StatRating™ Margin, which is greater than Fremantle's total StatRating™ indicates they have peaked, and may not come up this week. The only other time they have hit these levels this year, they played poorly against Geelong in the following week.
- The Bombers record at the MCG is outstanding, as they have stifled opposition scores in the past 3 years. Only Carlton has scored over 100 points against them at the MCG in the past 25 games.
- The Magpies form at the MCG has been fair this year, with 3 wins against Richmond, Hawthorn and the Western Bulldogs.
- Essendon's form against Top 8 sides this year has been ordinary, but their form against bottom 8 sides is 7-2 in their favour.
- Collingwood's form against Top 8 sides has been woeful with only 2 wins from 10 games played.
- Nothing to gain from Collingwood's recent visit to Subiaco in the past 3 years.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Essendon \$1.70
Collingwood \$2.15

At the Line

Essendon \$1.90 (- 6.5 points)
Collingwood \$1.90 (+6.5 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 Essendon (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 6 points. In Collingwood's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 6 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 7 points or more, then you collect.

There's every indication that the Bombers should be a \$1.30 chance in this game rather than the \$1.70 that is being quoted at the moment, and it's largely due to a few wildcards. The first is that the Magpies have finally turned the corner this year, and are on the up. They have won their last 3 games in a row, and Joffa still thinks they can make the 8! Their wins have been against the Western Bulldogs, Richmond, and Fremantle, which has lost 4 of their last 5 home games. The second wildcard is obviously the weather. The Bombers just don't like playing on a slippery surface, but if we get good conditions on Friday night, there's a good chance they'll notch up a comfortable win.

RECOMMENDATION: Big watch on the weather here, but if conditions are good, we'll take double stake on the win, and single stake on the line -6.5 @ \$1.90. Should the rain come, revert to single stake the win.

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.

Essendon Predicted StatRating™: 470–520

Points Range: 100 – 112

Collingwood Predicted StatRating™: 350 – 410

Points Range: 74 – 86

The spread for this game should be around 9 points, and the prediction is for a comfortable win. Again, the weather conditions will play a big part, so if it's wet, the game is rated a **3 star**, but if conditions are fine, it's definitely a **5 star** rating.

ACTUAL SCORE: Essendon 18.13.121 (525)

Collingwood 13.9.87 (370)

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