

# Sydney vs. Essendon

## Head to Head – Sydney vs. Essendon

Round	Venue	Syd Score	Ess Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Essendon StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
14	SCG	76	89	-13	13.6	10.0	301	528	-227
<b>2001</b>									
4	SCG	55	102	-47	12.7	11.7	450	497	-48
19	TD	77	79	-2	13.2	13.9	357	382	-25
<b>2002</b>									
9	TS	83	85	-2	10.7	10.5	532	494	38
<b>2003</b>									
11	TS	133	79	54	8.8	12.8	615	343	272
<b>2004</b>									
6	MCG	98	108	-10	11.1	9.6	433	522	-89
	<b>Average</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>-13</b>

The Bombers hold a commanding 5 -1 win ratio against Sydney since 2000, with their only loss coming in round 11 last year at Telstra Stadium. That followed a close win at the same venue a year earlier, when Ricky Mott missed a shot 20 metres out directly in front for the Swans. That indiscretion may have had something to do with the big ruckman now being on Carlton's list! In fact the Bomber last 3 against Sydney have not been impressive, as they almost got rolled in round 6 this year, when they seemingly had the game under control, and received some dubious free kicks to run out winners by 10 points. It could be that the tide is turning for these sides, and Sydney's big win against Melbourne last week should ensure that they start favourites against the Bombers at Telstra Stadium this week.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
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
18	SCG	Bris	83	51	32	11.3	15.0	355	260	95
19	SCG	Kang	112	118	-6	13.2	7.7	372	757	-385
20	TD	Melb	67	46	21	16.9	24.5	236	204	32
<b>Average</b>			<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>-79</b>

The Swans have made an art form out of ugly, possession football and denied the Demons any flow last week to score a convincing victory. They are an extremely disciplined side that follows coach's instructions to a tee. They had 10 less inside 50's last week against Melbourne, yet still had 17 scoring shots to Melbourne's 11. Their average StatRating™ of 322 is amazing considering they are still winning matches. Their style of play continues to make a mockery out of our StatRating™ system, which dictates that most sides that post a StatRating™ under 400 usually lose. While they don't really get anywhere near the StatRating™ of 600 and 700's that are common place for Top 4 sides, they certainly have worked out how to beat them. Their StatRating™ last week of 236 was one of the lowest on record for a winning side. Looking back at history, it was difficult to find similar playing styles in the past with that StatRating™.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>										
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
<b>2002</b>										
5	TD	Stk	56	56	0	16.8	19.4	303	206	98
6	SCG	Melb	99	71	28	11.3	12.8	415	414	1
<b>2004</b>										
20	TD	Melb	67	46	21	16.9	24.5	236	204	32

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. As mentioned earlier, it was difficult to find recent form that matched the Swans figures from last week's game. And even when did, we had to go back and look at the 2002, and 2000 season to them! An ugly draw at Telstra Dome back in 2002 matched this game, and the Swans recorded a win against Melbourne in the following week at the SCG. Hard to predict what they will score this week based on the findings, and we'll have to explore further in other tables to uncover the answers required.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
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
20	MCG	Coll	121	87	34	9.9	14.6	525	370	155
<b>Average</b>			<b>92</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>-30</b>

The Bombers responded beautifully after a slog against Carlton a week earlier, and proved to many that the weather holds no fear for them. Their opening quarter against Collingwood sealed the game, as the 40 point ¼ time margin eventually became 34 points in the end. The Bombers did have a small lapse in the game, as they saw a 43 point lead at the 22 minute mark of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter get whittled down to just 15 points by the 20 minute mark of the last quarter. Their StatRating™ of 525 and Possession per score of 9.9 are not usually considered peaks, but in those conditions, they are pretty close. They played a very direct style of footy, and on average were almost 5 possessions per score more effective than Collingwood. Games where the Bombers have played this direct style of footy this year are highlighted below.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
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
16	SUB	WCE	73	117	-44	13.7	12.8	357	407	-50
20	MCG	Coll	121	87	34	9.9	14.6	525	370	155

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. The bottom figures show the Bombers latest form. Rounds 4, 11 and 15 are games where the Bombers possession per score is under 10, similar to last week's effort against the Pies. It clearly highlights that had they played this similar style in better conditions, their StatRating™ could have been higher. On all occasions, the opposition teams StatRating™ were in the 300's. The issue here is the Bombers StatRating™ in the following week. The round 5 ANZAC day game against Collingwood produced a win, albeit against an undermanned side. Their subsequent 2 games against quality opposition produced some heavy losses. The round 15 game against Richmond matches their round 20 effort the most here, and they traveled interstate to Subiaco and lost to West Coast. They'd be hoping for a different outcome in their interstate game this week.

## Sydney – Form at Telstra Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Syd Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Sydney StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
9	TS	Ess	83	85	-2	10.7	10.5	532	494	38
17	TS	Carl	92	69	23	11.3	14.3	441	300	141
22	TS	Rich	116	76	40	10.4	14.5	550	311	240
		<b>Average</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>2003</b>										
1	TS	Carl	146	72	74	8.7	10.1	773	406	367
11	TS	Ess	133	79	54	8.8	12.8	615	343	272
21	TS	Coll	81	99	-18	15.3	9.7	287	627	-340
PF	TS	Bris	56	100	-44	15.3	9.7	255	503	-249
		<b>Average</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2004</b>										
5	TS	Melb	99	111	-12	11.2	9.2	403	437	-34
13	TS	Coll	85	79	6	12.9	9.8	349	409	-60
		<b>Average</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>-47</b>

The Swans form at Telstra Stadium is not as bad as first thought. They have played 9 games here in the past 3 years, for 5 wins and 4 losses. Remarkably, they have posted StatRating™ figures in the 600-700 range at this ground in 2003, and even scored upwards of 500 in 2002! There is a worrying stat that shows their last 4 games have produced a possession per score under 10.0 by the opposition, but given the Bombers current form expectation, we're not expecting a sub 10.0 from them this week. Their only constant here seems to be their average scoreboard total, which has been upwards of 92 over the past 3 years.

## Essendon – Form at Telstra Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
9	TS	Syd	85	83	2	10.5	10.7	494	532	-38
		<b>Average</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>-38</b>
<b>2003</b>										
11	TS	Syd	79	133	-54	12.8	8.8	343	615	-272
		<b>Average</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>-272</b>

With only 2 games to compare here for the Bombers, the findings could become a little skewed. In 2002, the Bombers were coming off a 99 point win against Stkilda, where they had rated 720, with a P/S of 8.2 to scrape home against the Swans. In 2003, they were coming off a 22 point win against West Coast, but had posted a StatRating™ of 662, and wait for it, a P/S of 9.1! Perhaps there is enough information here to make a valid judgment on what the Bombers may rate or kick in this game. Their current form suggests a StatRating™ between 350-440, which is in line with current data in this table.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
1	Gabba	Bris	78	80	-2	13.7	10.4	386	441	-55
2	<b>SCG</b>	Freo	102	71	<b>31</b>	12.7	12.1	371	371	0
3	<b>SCG</b>	Geel	73	67	<b>6</b>	11.4	14.5	385	248	137
5	<b>TS</b>	Melb	99	111	<b>-12</b>	11.2	9.2	403	437	-34
6	MCG	Ess	98	108	-10	11.1	9.6	433	522	-89
11	<b>SCG</b>	Stk	112	76	<b>36</b>	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
18	<b>SCG</b>	Bris	83	51	<b>32</b>	11.3	15.0	355	260	95
20	TD	Melb	67	46	21	16.9	24.5	236	204	32
<b>Average</b>			<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>-22</b>

The Swans have played 11 Top 8 sides this year, for a 5 -6 win loss ratio. If we look at the games highlighted in bold that represent home games at either the SCG or TS the record then reads 4 wins and 1 loss, with an average winning margin of 26 points. Their average score in that band of home games is 94 to 75, and Melbourne is the only side to have kicked over 100 against them when playing a quality side at home. The average opposition StatRating™ in these games has been 355.

## 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
<b>2004</b>										
1	<b>AAMI</b>	Port	62	158	<b>-96</b>	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
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
<b>Average</b>			<b>91</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>-22</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>-139</b>

We made mention of Essendons poor form against Top 8 sides in last weeks analysis, but it becomes much more relevant this week. They have played 9 games against Top 8 sides for 3 wins and 6 losses, with the most damning fact being they have only had to travel outside of Victoria **once!** Considering they have had this hometown luxury, they have not been able to capitalize on it. They have posted a StatRating™ over 500 only once in this time, against Sydney at the MCG back in round 6, while the opposition has surpassed this figure on 6 out of 9 occasions, and the other 3 all rated in the 400's. Surely this must give the Bombers a huge disadvantage this week, playing Sydney on their home turf, where the Swans have an 80% winning Strike rate?

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 5-1 in Essendons favour since 2000
- The Swans current form against Melbourne makes it impossible to predict what they may score this week. Their winning StatRating™ of 236 is one of the lowest on record, and is likened to ratings usually returned from games that are played on heavy rain affected grounds.
- The Bombers may have hit a peak with their win against Collingwood last week. Their form in the following week has been sub standard.
- The Swans form at Telstra Stadium has been average over the past 3 years, with 5 wins and 4 losses. Their average score at the ground is around 99.
- The Bombers have had just 2 games at Telstra Stadium since 2002. On both occasions, they have had similar form leading into those games.
- The Swans form against Top 8 sides is only fair, with 5 wins and 6 losses from 11 games. But in Sydney, this reads 4 wins and 1 loss from 5 games played.
- The Bombers form against Top 8 sides has been poor with only 3 wins from 9 games. Of the 9 games played, 8 have been in Melbourne.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

**Sydney**        **\$1.60**  
**Essendon**     **\$2.20**

At the Line

**Sydney**        **\$1.90 (- 10.5 points)**  
**Essendon**     **\$1.90 (+10.5 points)**

\* For the latest odds on offer visit [www.onthepunt.com.au](http://www.onthepunt.com.au)

At the line signifies that you will be able to get a better price on the Sydney (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 10 points. In Essendons 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.

While a large majority of the analysis centers around current form, there was enough to suggest here that the Bombers are coming off a slight peak, and may not fire this week. Although they can probably afford to lose against Sydney, and as long as they win against the Doggies next week will still make the 8, they need to arrest that terrible record against Top 8 teams. The fact that it's being played in Sydney does not help here, and the loss could be more than the 10.5 points being offered.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Single stake on the line for the Swans, -10.5 @ \$1.90.

### 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™: 370– 420  
Sydney Predicted StatRating™: 470 – 520

Points Range: 78– 90  
Points Range: 100 – 112

The spread for this game could be as high as 14 points, which gives very little room to move. Given we have limited data around the Swans current form analysis, the game is rated a **2 star**.

**ACTUAL SCORE: Sydney 17.8.110 (448)**

**Essendon 12.18.90 (592)**

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