

Essendon vs. Western Bulldogs

Head to Head – Essendon vs. Western Bulldogs

Round	Venue	Ess Score	WB Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Bulldogs StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
6	TD	144	81	63	9.0	14.0	667	294	373
21	MCG	81	92	-11	15.4	15.3	442	268	174
2001									
14	TD	154	76	78	9.5	11.5	653	451	201
2002									
14	TD	118	118	0	8.5	10.6	726	536	190
2003									
4	TD	129	110	19	11.3	11.1	441	539	-98
19	TD	147	80	67	9.2	14.3	709	336	374
2004									
7	TD	121	95	26	10.1	11.4	584	463	121
Average		128	93	35	10.4	12.6	603	412	191

Not since the famous flood of round 21 2000 have the Bulldogs been able to taste victory against the Bombers in the past 4 years. They got awfully close back in round 14 2002, when Matthew Lloyd kicked a point after the siren to level the scores. Otherwise, its usually been a percentage boosting win for the Dons, as their average winning margin indicates. Their average StatRating™ is a very healthy 603 to the Doggies 412. The Bombers average Possession per score is sitting around the 10 mark, and really, that game in round 21 does look out of place. The Bombers have always kicked a decent score against the Bulldogs, and with another Telstra Dome game, it should follow suit this week. The Western Bulldogs had a surprise win against the Kangaroos here last week, and with the Bombers going down to Sydney, the Doggies will give themselves a chance to notch up a win. The Bookies may not think so though, and should send the Bombers in short priced favourites in this game.

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										
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
21	TS	Syd	90	110	-20	7.6	8.9	592	448	144
Average			96	95	1	11.5	11.9	440	431	9

The scoreboard and stats sheet tells the story of last weeks effort. Just compare the last 2 games for the Bombers, and you'll quickly see that they played fairly similar in both games. Their StatRating™ and StatRating™ margin was similar, but the scoreboard did not favour them last week. After kicking 9.2.56 in the first quarter against Collingwood, they kicked 3.9.27 in the first quarter against Sydney last week. Their supporters can only wonder what the outcome may have been if they had kicked 9.3 instead of 3.9! They may have gone down by 20 points, but the good indicator here was their StatRating™. They beat the Swans by 144 StatRating™ points, and lost the game. This is normally a great indicator to a winning score in the following week, and the table below highlights the Bombers recent history with this indicator.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
21	MCG	WB	81	92	-11	15.4	15.3	442	268	174
22	MCG	Coll	97	78	19	10.4	12.7	538	402	136
2001										
10	Gabba	Bris	74	102	-28	9.8	11.8	492	347	145
11	TD	STk	128	86	42	9.1	14.2	603	402	201
22	MCG	Rich	83	107	-24	12.8	14.4	454	326	128
QF	MCG	Rich	113	43	70	11.7	15.9	410	283	127
2004										
21	TS	Syd	90	110	-20	7.6	8.9	592	448	144

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. Remarkably, the Bombers have not had the luxury of this indicator for quite a while. They have almost gone 3 full seasons without it, which is amazing. As mentioned before, many sides have profited when these figures are produced, and even though it's been a long time between drinks for the Bombers, they'll need to get ready and charge their glasses this week. While the form is a few years old, the strike rate is excellent, and should put the Bombers in the drivers set here.

Western Bulldogs – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
17	TD	Coll	66	115	-49	10.4	10.6	470	480	-10
18	SUB	WCE	57	106	-49	16.6	11.4	223	482	-259
19	TD	Haw	109	120	-11	11.1	12.2	539	370	169
20	MS	Port	61	147	-86	20.4	10.9	226	487	-262
21	TD	Kang	136	106	30	10.4	8.0	481	710	-228
Average			86	119	-33	13.8	10.6	388	506	-118

The final game milestone for Matthew Croft and Simon Garlick was a pleasant one, with the Doggies getting home by 30 points against the Kangaroos, in their 2nd upset of the season. Their first, against the Saints back in round 12 produced a similar Stats sheet. It seems implausible that the Kangaroos could have rated so high in this game, but it was sheer weight of possessions to the Bulldogs that got them through. The Bulldogs were not as efficient with the Ball as the Kangaroos were, and went inside 50 on 7 less occasions than the Roos. But they had a whopping 73 more possession than the Roos, allowing them plenty of time to get things right! It was a similar story against the Saints in round 12, where they had 41 more possessions, but still had a lower StatRating™ than the Saints. Just as the signs are good for teams that lose the game but post a higher StatRating™, they are equally as bad for sides that win the game, without winning on StatRating™. The table below highlights the games where the Doggies have done this in the past.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
1	TD	Geel	130	91	39	10.8	11.0	528	607	-79
2	TD	Rich	89	111	-22	12.1	10.2	397	597	-199
11	SUB	WCE	124	124	0	10.6	10.4	502	528	-26
12	SCG	Syd	63	127	-64	13.4	9.6	357	592	-235
16	SS	Geel	99	81	18	13.4	12.2	365	436	-71
17	TD	Rich	95	155	-60	12.2	8.9	400	617	-217
2004										
6	MO	Kang	120	119	1	10.0	9.8	450	521	-71
7	TD	Ess	95	121	-26	11.4	10.1	463	584	-121
12	MCG	Stk	103	80	23	11.9	11.7	437	479	-42
13	AAMI	Adel	101	133	-32	11.3	8.7	432	669	-237
21	TD	Kang	136	106	30	10.4	8.0	481	710	-228

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 Bulldogs StatRating™ in the following week. The bottom figures show the Bulldogs latest form. Not a pretty picture. 5 games meet these criteria from the past 2 seasons, with 5 losses following in the next week. The losses have ranged from 22 points to 64 points, at an average of 41 points. Their average StatRating™ in the following week is 410 to the oppositions 612. That equates to an average StatRating™ Margin of -202, which makes it difficult to win. The average Opposition score in this time has been 129.

Essendon – Form at Telstra Dome

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
4	TD	Adel	122	81	41	10.7	11.7	495	477	18
8	TD	Stk	171	72	99	8.2	16.1	720	311	409
11	TD	Port	49	108	-59	15.2	10.5	289	457	-168
13	TD	Melb	120	108	12	10.2	10.8	469	603	-134
14	TD	WB	118	118	0	8.5	10.6	726	536	190
16	TD	Geel	56	95	-39	17.1	12.1	234	437	-203
18	TD	Bris	71	108	-37	17.9	10.7	274	506	-232
21	TD	Freo	93	72	21	11.4	14.1	597	277	320
EF	TD	WCE	111	78	33	14.1	11.8	398	490	-93
		Average	101	93	8	12.6	12.0	467	455	12
2003										
4	TD	WB	129	110	19	11.3	11.1	441	539	-98
9	TD	Port	96	146	-50	10.6	9.7	407	558	-151
10	TD	WCE	128	106	22	9.1	11.1	662	488	175
12	TD	Kang	88	96	-8	12.0	11.7	415	429	-14
13	TD	Geel	129	93	36	10.9	17.1	540	281	258
14	TD	Stk	119	51	68	9.3	16.9	667	255	412
16	TD	Bris	94	86	8	13.3	10.6	353	490	-137
19	TD	WB	147	80	67	9.2	14.3	709	336	374
21	TD	Freo	133	73	60	9.6	16.3	616	270	346
		Average	118	93	25	10.6	13.2	534	405	129
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
7	TD	WB	121	95	26	10.1	11.4	584	463	121
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
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	102	110	-8	12.1	10.7	436	546	-110

The Bombers form at Telstra Dome has not been good this season, with only 4 wins from 9 games. We've spoken at length about how much their averages have dropped from previous seasons, but there is one point to consider in all of this. Of the 9 games they have played here, The Western Bulldogs represent the only bottom 8 side they have played, with the other 8 all Top 8 contenders. Its not an excuse for their average performance here, but could be a valid reason why their averages may have dropped. Last year, they played 5 of their 9 games against bottom 8 sides, and the averages reflect that. They are still able to kick a decent score here given the opposition they have played and doubt if a bottom 8 side will get near their average opposition score of 110 this week.

Western Bulldogs – Form at Telstra Dome

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	TD	Adel	93	112	-19	9.4	9.5	534	632	-98
2	TD	Kang	97	110	-13	10.9	10.2	470	616	-146
4	TD	Bris	78	94	-16	18.3	11.8	224	482	-257
5	TD	Melb	81	104	-23	10.6	9.8	479	488	-9
6	TD	Carl	96	68	28	11.8	13.2	380	424	-44
7	TD	Coll	63	73	-10	12.3	16.4	447	293	154
12	TD	StK	133	86	47	8.7	13.3	723	376	347
14	TD	Ess	118	118	0	10.6	8.5	536	726	-190
15	TD	Haw	93	116	-23	12.6	10.5	357	545	-188
17	TD	Kang	139	105	34	10.1	10.4	577	556	21
21	TD	Carl	97	99	-2	9.9	12.6	497	404	93
		Average	99	99	0	11.4	11.5	475	504	-29
2003										
1	TD	Geel	130	91	39	10.8	11.0	528	607	-79
2	TD	Rich	89	111	-22	12.1	10.2	397	597	-199
3	TD	Melb	95	127	-32	11.6	11.5	464	496	-33
4	TD	Ess	110	129	-19	11.1	11.3	539	441	98
6	TD	Stk	85	100	-15	12.7	12.4	418	419	-1
7	TD	Freo	72	155	-83	15.6	8.0	365	773	-408
10	TD	Kang	145	156	-11	8.7	8.5	682	718	-36
13	TD	Coll	85	128	-43	11.8	9.0	442	611	-169
15	TD	Port	93	108	-15	13.7	9.5	380	677	-297
17	TD	Rich	95	155	-60	12.2	8.9	400	617	-217
18	TD	Melb	101	80	21	12.3	15.5	511	285	226
19	TD	Ess	80	147	-67	14.3	9.2	336	709	-374
22	TD	Bris	86	170	-84	15.0	9.2	353	761	-408
		Average	97	127	-30	12.5	10.3	447	593	-146
2004										
1	TD	WCE	137	144	-7	7.8	8.2	730	746	-16
7	TD	Ess	95	121	-26	11.4	10.1	463	584	-121
11	TD	Geel	67	113	-46	15.5	11.7	258	555	-297
14	TD	Freo	76	117	-41	11.4	11.6	552	439	113
16	TD	Melb	55	93	-38	13.7	9.3	343	611	-268
17	TD	Coll	66	115	-49	10.4	10.6	470	480	-10
19	TD	Haw	109	120	-11	11.1	12.2	539	370	169
21	TD	Kang	136	106	30	10.4	8.0	481	710	-228
		Average	93	116	-23	11.5	10.2	479	562	-83

Last weeks win here was the Bulldogs 3rd since 2003, out of a possible 21 games. In that time, only 3 sides have failed to kick over 100, with the average opposition score sitting at 123. The average opposition StatRating™ has been 577, although the Doggies have been able to kick good scores, with their average being 95. This just doesn't add up for the Doggies, and yet they still won last week! The StatRating™ figures from that game should be a pointer to this weeks result, and we'll see what the outcome is this week.

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
3	TD	WCE	137	131	6	11.9	9.1	513	592	-78
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
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
21	TS	Syd	90	110	-20	7.6	8.9	592	448	144
Average			93	115	-22	11.9	10.6	432	536	-104

Enough said for the Bombers Top 8 form, as we know it is not flash. Their bottom 8 form reads much better, with 7 wins and 2 losses in their 9 games this year. Their average winning margin has been 47 points against these sides, and average losing margin of just 19 points. This table should become much more relevant next week.

Western Bulldogs – Top 8 Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	TD	WCE	137	144	-7	7.8	8.2	730	746	-16
3	MCG	Melb	87	97	-10	11.1	7.8	422	781	-359
5	AAMI	Port	64	119	-55	10.6	9.1	445	605	-160
10	SCG	Syd	67	93	-26	14.8	10.1	317	543	-226
11	TD	Geel	67	113	-46	15.5	11.7	258	555	-297
12	MCG	Stk	103	80	23	11.9	11.7	437	479	-42
14	TD	Freo	76	117	-41	11.4	11.6	552	439	113
15	Gabba	Bris	68	136	-68	15.5	8.9	310	695	-386
16	TD	Melb	55	93	-38	13.7	9.3	343	611	-268
18	SUB	WCE	57	106	-49	16.6	11.4	223	482	-259
20	MS	Port	61	147	-86	20.4	10.9	226	487	-262
Average			77	113	-36	13.6	10.1	387	584	-197

The Bulldogs form against Top 8 sides is to be expected considering they are in the bottom 4. They have one win in 11 games played, in the upset of the season. Their average score of 77 is a worry, but it looks a lot better if you distinguish between interstate games, where the Bulldogs have kicked 88 at home, and 63 away. A very high Opposition StatRating™ here of 584, and the 36 point average losing margin fits in well with all the Stats. Wont be any easier this week.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 5-1 in Essendons favour since 2000, with a draw back in round 14 2002.
- The Bombers current form suggests they will bounce back this week. They lost the Game, but posted higher StatRating™ figures which has a good strike. They are 3 from 3 in the past with these results.
- The Western Bulldogs current form suggests they may fall this week, after winning the game, but posting much lower StatRating™ figures. In the 5 games where this has occurred in the past 2 years, the Bulldogs have lost all 5 at an average of 41 points.
- The Bombers form at Telstra Dome has been average this year, but they have played 8 Top 8 sides in their 9 games.
- The Bulldogs have won 3 of their past 21 games at Telstra Dome, and look unlikely to post a win here this week.
- The Bombers form against Bottom 8 sides is good, with 7 wins from 9 games played.
- The Western Bulldogs form against Top 8 sides has been poor with only 1 win from 11 games. Average losing margin is 36 points.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Essendon	\$1.20
Western Bulldogs	\$4.25

At the Line

Essendon	\$1.90 (- 28.5 points)
Western Bulldogs	\$1.90 (+28.5 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 28 points. In the Doggies case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 28 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 29 points or more, then you collect.

The Bulldogs may have put a dent in our profit sheet last week, but should oblige and come forward to return these profits this week! It was frustrating to have the StatRating™ figures go to plan, while the scoreboard took off on a tangent. This week looks very similar to last week, and the result should be reversed. It's a classic StatRating™ pendulum, with one side keen to hit a peak, and the other ready to fall down. There is no doubt that the milestone scenario lifted the Bulldogs emotions last week, and somehow they scored an unlikely victory. The Dons, like the Kangaroos last week, have plenty to play for, and should win this game comfortably. There is always the Sheedy factor. This game is being played on Sunday, and if results go to plan on Saturday, the Dons could be in the 8 before this game even starts. If they have do is win, whats the likely outcome that Mr Sheedy will pull his stars off towards the end of the game, in preparation for the Finals? Normally not an issue, but it is when you have to give a 28.5 point head start. This is the only worry in this game, and lets hope the dragging and resting of players doesn't effect the final score too much.

RECOMMENDATION: Single stake on the line for the Bombers, -28.5 @ \$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™: 540– 600
Western Bulldogs Predicted StatRating™: 380 – 430

Points Range: 116– 128
Points Range: 80 – 92

The spread for this game could come in at 33-34 points, and doesn't leave much room for odds, especially if the scenario outlined before should occur. Given the likelihood of this, the game is rated a **3 star**.

ACTUAL SCORE: Essendon 17.11.113 (468) Western Bulldogs 14.12.96 (436)

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