

Adelaide vs. St Kilda

Head to Head – Adelaide vs. St Kilda

Round	Venue	Adel Score	STK Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	St Kilda StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
8	TD	108	68	40	7.6	14.8	878	324	554
2001									
15	TD	156	59	97	8.3	18.6	786	231	555
2002									
15	AAMI	99	81	18	11.9	11.9	352	354	-2
2003									
2	TD	91	99	-8	10.8	12.4	472	411	61
17	AAMI	143	86	57	9.4	13.1	596	321	275
	Average	119	79	41	9.6	14.2	617	328	289

Adelaide has enjoyed a good run against St Kilda in recent times, and overall the record stands at 4-1 over the last 4 years. The Saints have come a long way since their 2000 and 2001 days, where the StatRating™ Margin was a whopping 500+ in both games at Telstra Dome. These days, the Saints pride themselves on being Kings of Telstra Dome, and doubt that this StatRating™ Margin would get anywhere near that figure, as can be seen by their most recent encounter in round 2 2003, where they got up to beat the Crows. Although these figures suggest otherwise, the fact that St Kilda has won their opening 3 games of the season and sit on top of the AFL ladder, will ensure that they start favorite against Adelaide which is yet to win a game this season, even though this game is being played at AAMI Stadium.

Adelaide – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	MCG	Kang	74	149	-75	10.5	9.2	438	619	-181
2	AAMI	Bris	83	104	-21	9.1	9.9	613	455	158
3	SUB	Freo	64	73	-9	13.0	14.9	377	323	54
Average			74	109	-35	10.9	11.3	476	466	10

Adelaide's start to the season has been inglorious, and is yet to open their winning account. Scores of 74, 83, and 64 are not quite winning totals, yet their average StatRating™ of 476 suggests they should have won a game by now. While their scores have been low, their playing style has been good, with the main problem being their accuracy at goal. Last year, they averaged 55% accuracy overall, and 57% at AAMI Stadium. So far this year their average is at a woeful 38%! And we are talking about AFL footballers here, not some 3rd grade bush team. To make matters worse, their opposition average has been a healthy 54%. While it wouldn't have made much difference against the Kangaroos, it may have changed the result in their previous 2 games, as score lines of 11.17.83 and 8.16.64, would have looked a lot better as 15.13.103, and 13.11.89, when you apply the 55% score. So is this a feature of Adelaide's forward line not functioning, or the fact that seasoned AFL footballers cannot kick straight? Whatever the answer is, they'd better have their kicking boots on this week, or their season will be looking very gloomy indeed. A positive aspect of last week's performance was their ability to again post higher StatRating™ figures than their opposition, which is usually a good sign. Here are previous occurrences where Adelaide has performed at the levels.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
6	YP	Haw	91	104	-13	9.9	13.9	616	338	278
7	AAMI	Freo	103	83	20	9.5	13.3	620	323	297
13	AAMI	Coll	97	99	-2	10.8	11.0	538	436	102
14	AAMI	WCE	64	51	13	12.3	18.8	462	224	238
2002										
5	AAMI	Port	82	90	-8	11.6	12.7	370	308	61
6	TD	Rich	105	73	32	9.3	15.2	642	270	372
2003										
2	TD	Stk	91	99	-8	10.8	12.4	472	411	61
3	SCG	Syd	103	76	27	9.3	11.9	592	395	198
5	AAMI	Port	66	78	-12	13.9	15.2	345	277	68
6	TD	Kang	124	70	54	12.3	12.8	456	337	119
7	AAMI	Coll	109	114	-5	10.4	10.3	479	428	51
8	Gabba	Bris	89	107	-18	10.9	10.3	459	534	-75
16	SUB	Freo	90	91	-1	10.3	11.3	514	346	167
17	AAMI	Stk	143	86	57	9.4	13.1	596	321	275
2004										
2	AAMI	Bris	83	104	-21	9.1	9.9	613	455	158
3	SUB	Freo	64	73	-9	13.0	14.9	377	323	54

The figures highlighted in light blue represent current playing criteria, which is a loss in the game and a higher StatRating™ margin. The figures in red show the game result in the following week, and the cells highlighted in Green indicate Adelaide's StatRating™ in the following week. As mentioned last week, they usually perform well after striking this event. Of particular interest is round 16, 2003 where Adelaide lost to Fremantle by a point at Subiaco, even though they scored a higher StatRating™, then played St Kilda at AAMI Stadium to post a big win. Will watch with interest to see if history can repeat itself here. Their average StatRating™ at AAMI stadium from these games since 2001 is 559.

St Kilda – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
1	TD	Geel	122	61	61	11.5	15.8	504	272	232
2	TD	Ess	94	60	34	11.6	16.6	509	266	243
3	TD	Rich	114	69	45	8.3	13.5	665	238	428
Average			110	63	47	10.5	15.3	559	258	301

The Saints could not have started the season in better form, and have steamrolled the 3 sides they have played thus far. Their backline has been able to restrict the opposition to almost identical scores of 61, 60 and 69. They have also been able to keep the opposition StatRating™ below 300, and post healthy StatRating™ Margins at the same time. Last weeks game against Richmond was complete control, and possibly a signal that they have peaked. Their StatRating™ jumped to 665, their possession per score came in under 10 at 8.3, and their StatRating™ margin soared to 428. This StatRating™ margin is almost double the StatRating™ that Richmond recorded, and usually not a good sign for the coming weeks. Below are games where St Kilda recorded similar figures last year.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2003										
10	MCG	Haw	118	90	28	9.5	13.5	631	305	326
11	TD	Bris	90	85	5	13.6	14.7	419	307	112
19	TD	Rich	130	50	80	10.1	20.7	553	207	345
20	Optus	Carl	166	75	91	10.5	13.4	602	337	265
21	YP	WB	95	30	65	11.5	19.7	564	178	386
22	SS	Geel	65	84	-19	15.1	11.3	365	362	3
2004										
3	TD	Rich	114	69	45	8.3	13.5	665	238	428

The figures highlighted in light blue represent current playing criteria, which is the StatRating™ Margin higher than the opposition StatRating™. The figures in red show the game result in the following week, and the cells highlighted in Green indicate St Kilda's StatRating™ in the following week. It's difficult to assess this indicator for the Saints, as they've only started to produce this in 2003. There was no such data in 2002, and this is a sign that they are starting to improve. Teams like Port Adelaide and Brisbane have their tables full of figures like these, and can produce them week in, week out. The Saints may get to that point, but at the moment aren't quite there. The Round 11 game against Brisbane saw their StatRating™ drop to 419, but recorded a win over Brisbane, which at that stage began their mid season slump, which saw them lose 5 of their next 7 games. The round 20 win over Carlton is also hard to gauge, as the Blues lost their last 10 games by an average of 64 points. The round 22 game against Geelong saw them return from York Park, in extremely muddy conditions, to post a StatRating™ of 365 against a spirited Geelong. The same could be said this week about Adelaide, who is struggling at the start of the 2004 season. But one point to consider is that the sides that St Kilda has beaten are sitting in the bottom 6 positions on the ladder. In contrast, the sides that Adelaide has lost to are sitting in the Top 6 positions on the ladder...

Adelaide – Form at AAMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
2	AAMI	Geel	110	79	31	9.8	13.5	541	304	237
3	AAMI	Syd	114	84	30	9.3	13.2	636	296	340
5	AAMI	Port	82	90	-8	11.6	12.7	370	308	61
7	AAMI	Freo	118	89	29	11.9	12.9	488	303	185
10	AAMI	Bris	101	94	7	11.7	10.9	445	359	86
11	AAMI	Haw	102	58	44	10.3	14.8	624	277	347
14	AAMI	Coll	116	138	-22	9.9	7.2	545	624	-79
15	AAMI	Stk	99	81	18	11.9	11.9	352	354	-2
16	AAMI	WB	138	95	43	9.4	11.2	724	402	322
19	AAMI	Ess	124	76	48	10.1	13.1	615	313	301
20	AAMI	Port	76	84	-8	12.5	10.7	361	374	-13
21	AAMI	Rich	87	65	22	12.6	13.1	380	291	89
		Average	106	86	20	10.9	12.1	507	350	156
2003										
1	AAMI	Freo	145	89	56	9.6	11.0	690	364	326
4	AAMI	WCE	106	73	33	11.0	12.9	602	348	253
5	AAMI	Port	66	78	-12	13.9	15.2	345	277	68
7	AAMI	Coll	109	114	-5	10.4	10.3	479	428	51
9	AAMI	WB	109	93	16	11.7	13.7	571	352	220
12	AAMI	Melb	138	65	73	10.5	18.6	505	220	285
14	AAMI	Rich	72	44	28	14.1	21.4	334	196	138
15	AAMI	Ess	90	49	41	12.2	17.1	433	210	223
17	AAMI	Stk	143	86	57	9.4	13.1	596	321	275
18	AAMI	Syd	97	93	4	10.0	11.2	432	376	56
21	AAMI	Kang	64	74	-10	18.9	10.0	191	440	-249
22	AAMI	Port	78	94	-16	15.3	12.1	313	397	-84
EF	AAMI	WCE	113	57	56	10.2	16.3	635	221	414
		Average	102	78	25	12.1	14.1	471	319	152
2004										
2	AAMI	Bris	83	104	-21	9.1	9.9	613	455	158
		Average	83	104	-21	9.1	9.9	613	455	158

Adelaide's form at AAMI Stadium has been first class, and is one of the many interstate sides to hold a definite home ground advantage. When they do lose here, it's not by much, with the biggest losses coming from Grand Finalists Collingwood and Brisbane at 22 and 21 points respectively. Much has been said of Collingwood's performances at this ground, and they were the only side to post a score over 100 points against Adelaide in the past 2 years, until Brisbane came along this year, with their 8.5.53 first quarter demolition in round 2. Even then, they restricted Brisbane to 7.9.51 for the following 3 quarters. Rarely does a side post a StatRating™ of 400 against them, and this week will be a true test of where Adelaide is at. They have been able to maintain a StatRating™ Margin of around 150 against teams in the past, and continued on with that same figure against Brisbane in round 2 this year.

St Kilda – Form at AAMI Stadium

Round	Venue	Opp Team	STK Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	St Kilda StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
4	AAMI	Port	50	114	-64	15.7	12.6	249	452	-203
Average			50	114	-64	15.7	12.6	249	452	-203
2002										
15	AAMI	Adel	81	99	-18	11.9	11.9	354	352	2
18	AAMI	Port	63	105	-42	14.6	11.1	344	441	-97
Average			72	102	-30	13.2	11.5	349	397	-48
2003										
17	AAMI	Adel	86	143	-57	13.1	9.4	321	596	-275
Average			86	143	-57	13.1	9.4	321	596	-275

The Saints form at AAMI Stadium has been very average in the past, but many will say it's not a true reflection of what this current side is capable of. That's a valid point, but so is the fact that St Kilda has won only 2 of their past 13 games at AAMI Stadium since 1991. In that time they have only been able to score over 100 when posting wins. That was round 22 1991, with a score of 132, and round 22 1997, with a score of 117. Their best performance in recent times has been a StatRating™ of 354 in round 15 2002.

Adelaide – Form returning from Subiaco

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Adel Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Adelaide StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
4	SUB	WCE	73	187	-114	11.9	8.5	548	710	-162
5	Gabba	Bris	92	122	-30	10.4	8.3	463	852	-369
2001										
22	SUB	Freo	83	120	-37	11.3	9.5	381	592	-209
EF	MCG	Carl	50	118	-68	13.5	10.9	341	552	-211
2002										
13	SUB	WCE	117	135	-18	11.6	8.8	441	730	-288
14	AAMI	Coll	116	138	-22	9.9	7.2	545	624	-79
22	SUB	Freo	120	80	40	9.8	14.2	714	290	425
QF	Gabba	Bris	44	115	-71	15.2	10.1	296	564	-269
2003										
16	SUB	Freo	90	91	-1	10.3	11.3	514	346	167
17	AAMI	StK	143	86	57	9.4	13.1	596	321	275
19	SUB	WCE	91	67	24	10.7	15.8	468	234	234
20	TD	Coll	71	108	-37	16.3	10.0	302	512	-210

This table proved to be a valuable form reference last week, and so we have compiled a similar table this week. Adelaide's marketing department need to have a chat to the AFL head honchos, as their Subiaco games are usually followed by another interstate trip in the following week! Like lambs to the slaughter, they've followed up 2 of these games at the "Gabbattoir", where Brisbane have taken full advantage of their Subiaco trip. Trips to Melbourne at the MCG and Telstra Dome have also resulted in losses, and when they finally get to play at home, they run into AAMI Stadium specialists in Collingwood! Their other AAMI Stadium game, which they won against St Kilda has already been discussed, and is the one positive to take from here. It does highlight that if Adelaide were playing this game interstate this week, they'd have very little chance of success. That they are playing at home, where their average is 571 from the 2 games played, gives them a real chance.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 4-1 in Adelaide's favour, with St Kilda posting an 8 point win last year at Telstra Dome.
- Adelaide's current form slump can be directly attributed to their accuracy at goal. Last year they averaged 55%, while their current playing average is 38%
- Adelaide lost the game on the scoreboard, but won on StatRating™ last week, which is usually a good indicator for the following week. In the past they have won 6 of their 8 games when this has occurred.
- St Kilda's current playing levels are very good, but may have hit a peak. Their StatRating™ Margin was almost twice that of Richmond's total StatRating™ for the match.
- Adelaide's record at AAMI Stadium is first class, and has proven to be a hard team to beat at home. Only Brisbane and Collingwood have scored over 100 points against them in the past 2 years at AAMI Stadium.
- St Kilda's form at AAMI Stadium has not been good in the past. They have won 2 of their last 13, and last beat Adelaide there in round 22 1991. Their most recent win was against Port Adelaide in round 22 1997.
- Adelaide's form after returning from the Subiaco has been woeful, but usually because they've had to travel away again for the second consecutive week. When play at AAMI Stadium, their StatRating™ levels have been good.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Adelaide	\$2.10
St Kilda	\$1.72

At the Line

Adelaide	\$1.90 (+7.5 points)
St Kilda	\$1.90 (-7.5 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 St Kilda (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 7 points. In Adelaide's case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 7 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 8 points or more, then you collect.

Considering their relative positions on the AFL Ladder (1st vs. 15th), I would have expected a much better price for Adelaide. But possible suspensions and a home ground advantage for the Crows have evened up the odds. The Crows have had a tough start to the year, and an inform St Kilda does not make it any easier. This game is certainly the litmus test for the Crows, as they get many conditions to suit. They have good StatRating™ indicators coming into this game, while the Saints have a possibility of peak ratings. They have home ground advantage, and are up against a side that has been up for 4 weeks of the Wizard cup, including a Grand Final win, and 3 weeks of the AFL season, in a 7 week display that has many comparing this side to Brisbane. All we're asking is that the Crows kick straight, and if they are to lose, it's not because of their accuracy....

RECOMMENDATION: With a 7 point start at hand, this has to be the safest option, whilst still providing value in this round. The Crows must win this week, and +7.5 @ \$1.90 is the recommendation.

GOLD MEMBERSHIP:

Historical StatRating™ figures for Head to Head, current form, and form at the ground suggest the following points range for these teams.

Adelaide Predicted StatRating™: 460 - 510	Points Range: 97 - 109
St Kilda Predicted StatRating™: 350 - 410	Points Range: 74 - 88

Considering the 7 point start, this game again could provide good value for Spread betting. Line margin should be taken, and the predicted buy/sell should be close to 4 – 10.

ACTUAL SCORE: Adelaide 15.8.98 (StatRating™ 428) St Kilda 18.5.113(StatRating™ 325)

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