

# Kangaroos vs. Western Bulldogs

## Head to Head – Kangaroos vs. Western Bulldogs

Round	Venue	Kang Score	WB Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Western Bulldogs StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>									
15	TD	102	106	-4	10.2	12.9	520	450	70
<b>2001</b>									
10	MCG	125	79	46	9.5	11.0	613	444	169
<b>2002</b>									
2	TD	110	97	13	10.2	10.9	616	470	146
17	TD	105	139	-34	10.4	10.1	556	577	-21
<b>2003</b>									
10	TD	156	145	11	8.5	8.7	718	682	36
<b>Average</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>80</b>

The 5 games that these sides have played over the last 4 years have been high scoring affairs, with the Roos yet to score below 100 points. The Kangaroos efficiency has been very constant at around the 10 mark, while the Doggies haven't been far off this mark either. Both teams StatRating™ has been very high, with the Kangaroos lowest being 520 over the past 4 years, and the Bulldogs maintaining that as an overall average. The 3-2 advantage the Roos have over the Bulldogs shows how even these two sides have been in the past, although their most recent encounter in round 10 last year has helped the Bulldogs average look a lot better. The Kangaroos form over the past 2 weeks has been terrible, but has a genuine home ground advantage this week, and should enter this game slight favourite.

## Kangaroos – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
1	MCG	Adel	149	74	75	9.2	10.5	619	438	181
2	MCG	Haw	103	74	29	11.2	15.7	501	325	176
3	MCG	Carl	111	106	5	9.9	12.0	486	400	86
4	MO	Syd	70	121	-51	13.2	12.5	341	406	-66
5	TD	Stk	65	130	-65	10.8	10.7	381	596	-215
<b>Average</b>			<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>32</b>

After such a promising start, the Kangaroos have slipped in recent weeks, and by some hefty margins. Consecutive 10 goal losses have not only hurt their percentage, but also their perception as a top contender by the football media. Nothing wrong with that, as we try to gauge exactly where the Roos are at this stage of the season. Their most recent games have been against sides that are seen by many to be right up there this season, and perhaps it's been a good reality check for the Roos. Their first three wins are not looking as impressive, and the winning margins are about right with where those sides are at the moment. Last week's game was a much better effort by the Roos, and although they lost by more, they let it slip in the last quarter. After being 35 points down at quarter time, they had 9 shots to 3 in the second quarter, for a paltry return of 2.7 to 1.2. Instead of being in front at half time, they were still 24 points in arrears. The margin was still only 28 points at the 11 minute mark of the final quarter, before Gehrig took a mark 35 out and goaled, and the floodgates opened up. They kicked the next 5 goals in 13 minutes to blow the margin out to 65 points. They'll need to regroup in a hurry, and below are games where the Kangaroos have played at current playing levels over the past 2 seasons.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
6	MCG	Haw	87	155	-68	12.9	10.7	364	635	-271
7	SUB	WCE	90	139	-49	10.0	9.8	438	570	-132
19	SCG	Syd	97	144	-47	11.0	9.7	489	701	-212
20	TD	Carl	114	95	19	8.9	14.4	564	376	188
<b>2003</b>										
4	SUB	Freo	122	167	-45	11.6	7.4	372	856	-484
5	TD	Carl	113	122	-9	9.6	9.2	510	716	-206
20	TD	Haw	96	110	-14	10.7	11.0	366	480	-114
21	AAMI	Adel	74	64	10	10.0	18.9	440	191	249

The cells highlighted in Light Blue represent current playing levels, while the cells highlighted in red show the game result in the following week. The cells in Green highlight the Kangaroos StatRating™ in the following week. Their results seem to be a little indifferent, and hard to predict. The 49 point loss in round 7 2002 was expected at Subiaco, as was their 19 point win against wooden spooners Carlton in round 19 of that year. The 9 point loss to Carlton in round 5 2003 was a surprise result, but followed the pattern of no Victorian team winning the following week from Perth. The round 21 win against Adelaide was a hard fought win in showery conditions, but Adelaide was not at their strongest at that stage of the season. There are some positives and constants to derive from these results though. Their Possession per score has been excellent in the following week, and their StatRating™ has also improved in the following games from these current playing levels. Their average StatRating™ in the following week is a healthy 488, and a figure in this range is expected this week.

## Western Bulldogs – Current form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Western Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2004</b>										
1	TD	WCE	137	144	-7	7.8	8.2	730	746	-16
2	MCG	Coll	97	106	-9	9.6	8.5	523	637	-114
3	MCG	Melb	87	97	-10	11.1	7.8	422	781	-359
4	MCG	Haw	109	97	12	11.0	12.0	555	408	146
5	AAMI	Port	64	119	-55	10.6	9.1	445	605	-160
<b>Average</b>			<b>99</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>-101</b>

The Western Bulldogs have remarkably high StatRating™ figures for a club that has only won 1 game, but are letting themselves down in the opposition StatRating™. 635 is currently the highest average for opposition teams of the 16 AFL clubs. Looking back through their form over the first 5 games, it's been Melbourne and Port Adelaide that have been the premier sides played, and while a 10 point loss looks good on paper against Melbourne, the 359 StatRating™ Margin is a truer reflection of the difference between these clubs. Their most recent game against Port Adelaide had many parallels with the Kangaroos as far as scoring goes. After a fairly even 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, Port took charge and kicked the opening 5 goals of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The Doggies then responded and held Port goalless for the rest of the quarter, and kicked a miserable 1.7 with their next 8 shots for a total of 1.10 for the quarter. They did it again in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, when they opened up with a goal, and then kicked 6 straight behinds. Another 4 straight behinds followed in the last term before Murphy slotted a goal at the 21 minute mark of the final term. A much better effort than the Melbourne game, but not on the scoreboard. These current playing levels are OK, and below are similar games that Doggies have played at the levels.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Western Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
2	TD	Kang	97	110	-13	10.9	10.2	470	616	-146
3	SUB	WCE	81	113	-32	11.2	10.5	448	440	9
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
<b>2003</b>										
13	TD	Coll	85	128	-43	11.8	9.0	442	611	-169
14	MCG	Haw	83	154	-71	11.9	7.6	438	759	-321

The cells highlighted in Light Blue represent current playing levels, while the cells highlighted in red show the game result in the following week. The cells in Green highlight the Western Bulldogs StatRating™ in the following week. While the current form is OK, it's probably hard to find good form in the following week for the Bulldogs, as there hasn't been many wins for this club in the past 2 years. The round 3 game against West Coast at Subiaco last year was a great effort, and the 32 point margin was not a real reflection of the game. The loss to Hawthorn in round 15 was not good, as was their round 14 loss to the Hawks last year. Unlike the Kangaroos current form though, every subsequent game from these levels has seen their StatRating™ go down instead of up, as has their efficiency. Their average StatRating™ at these current playing levels are 414, which would fit in this week if this trend was going to continue.

## Kangaroos – Form at Manuka Oval

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
8	MO	Adel	110	93	17	9.1	13.6	596	428	168
15	MO	Freo	83	82	1	11.0	13.9	536	352	184
22	MO	WCE	126	143	-17	7.8	8.2	720	631	89
		<b>Average</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>2003</b>										
9	MO	Syd	84	59	25	10.9	13.7	432	277	156
17	MO	Geel	104	86	18	12.7	12.2	324	387	-63
		<b>Average</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>2004</b>										
4	MO	Syd	70	121	-51	13.2	12.5	341	406	-66
		<b>Average</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>-66</b>

The Kangaroos suffered their worst loss ever at Manuka Oval in round 4, as well as posting their lowest score ever at that venue. Their StatRating™ at this venue has slipped over the past year, but they have also been able to restrict the opposition, apart from the Swans most recent effort. Overall their record at this venue is 7 from 10, and they have not lost 2 on the trot here ever. Their average winning margin in these 7 games has been 26 points.

## Western Bulldogs – Form at Interstate Venues

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Western Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2002</b>										
3	SUB	WCE	81	113	-32	11.2	10.5	448	440	9
8	SCG	Syd	159	90	69	8.1	8.3	837	767	69
13	AAMI	Port	115	161	-46	12.0	9.9	400	634	-234
16	AAMI	Adel	95	138	-43	11.2	9.4	402	724	-322
19	Gabba	Bris	67	105	-38	13.0	9.0	345	622	-227
		<b>Average</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>-141</b>
<b>2003</b>										
5	Gabba	Bris	79	106	-27	17.8	10.2	314	548	-234
9	AAMI	Adel	93	109	-16	13.7	11.7	352	571	-220
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
20	SUB	Freo	77	133	-56	17.1	7.7	251	816	-565
21	YP	StK	30	95	-65	19.7	11.5	178	564	-386
		<b>Average</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>-277</b>
<b>2004</b>										
5	AAMI	Port	64	119	-55	10.6	9.1	445	605	-160
		<b>Average</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>-160</b>

This is the first time the Doggies play at Manuka Oval, so their interstate form has been compiled instead of form at this venue. These are surprising figures, as the Western Bulldogs are generally considered a side that travels well. They have 1 win from their last 12 games, and an unlucky Draw against West Coast. The disturbing stat here is their average opposition StatRating™ over the last 2 years. It's over 600, which is currently their average for games played this year, in Melbourne! The odds say that they should continue this trend, and a win based on these figures is highly improbable.

## Western Bulldogs – Form with 2 consecutive interstate games

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Western Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
<b>2000</b>										
10	SCG	Syd	137	79	58	10.4	15.4	671	319	352
11	SUB	Freo	174	81	93	9.4	11.8	620	390	230
17	Gabba	Bris	81	138	-57	11.9	9.3	411	797	-386
18	AAMI	Port	106	149	-43	12.0	8.1	435	655	-221
<b>2001</b>										
8	SCG	Syd	122	101	21	10.2	11.5	577	452	125
9	SUB	WCE	125	77	48	8.6	13.0	583	354	229
<b>2003</b>										
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
20	SUB	Freo	77	133	-56	17.1	7.7	251	816	-565
21	YP	StK	30	95	-65	19.7	11.5	178	564	-386
<b>2004</b>										
5	AAMI	Port	64	119	-55	10.6	9.1	445	605	-160

This is another stat that sometimes escapes the attention of most football punters. Many sides, both Melbourne and interstate based, do not cope very well with consecutive weeks on the road. You'd think it wouldn't affect many sides that are used to traveling, but sure enough there is enough data to suggest it does. At first glance, it looks as though the Bulldogs are immune from the travel bug, as they have been able to post strong wins against Sydney, Fremantle, and the West Coast Eagles in the past. Strong wins in the following week, as well as equally strong losses have ensued. But when we look a little closer, there is a pattern that has emerged over the past 4 seasons. It seems their current StatRating™ and form has followed on to their next interstate match in the following week. 671 became 620 in round 11 2000, 411 to 435 in round 18 of that same year. 577 to 583 in 2001, and 2002 did not have consecutive interstate games for the Doggies. The 2003 form is close enough for rounds 20 and 21 while round 12 seems to be the exception, but they certainly didn't get any better. This could be an important stat, as it seems they do not change their form midstream while on the road. If this trend continues, we should expect a StatRating™ no higher than 445 this week for the Western Bulldogs, and an opposition StatRating™ around the 550 – 600.

## Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 3-2 in the Kangaroos favour, but stats are very even across the board.
- The Kangaroos current playing levels are difficult to assess, but they have improved on each occasion in the following week in the past.
- The Western Bulldogs record from these levels is not good, but they have only won 4 games of their last 27, and it's hard to find positive results. Their StatRating™ levels have dropped in the following week, from current playing levels.
- The Kangaroos form at this venue has been solid, with 7 wins from their past 10 games here. Average winning margin is 26 points.
- The Western Bulldogs have not played here before, but their interstate record is not good. They have won 1 game from their last 12 interstate games in the past 2 years, with an average losing margin of 44 points.
- The Bulldogs play consecutive interstate games this week, and have carried their previous games form into their next game on every accession.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

<b>Kangaroos</b>	<b>\$1.60</b>
<b>Western Bulldogs</b>	<b>\$2.30</b>

At the Line

<b>Kangaroos</b>	<b>\$1.90 (-11.5 points)</b>
<b>Western Bulldogs</b>	<b>\$1.90 (+11.5 points)</b>

\* 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 Kangaroos (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 11 points. In the Doggies case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 11 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 12 points or more, then you collect.

This is not a high profile top of the table clash, or a game that will burden a side with a wooden spoon, and as such may escape some well deserved scrutiny. The fact that these prices have been put up suggests the bookies may not place as much importance on it, and feel the media will have the spotlight on the Stk – Bris game and the Rich – Haw clash. But as can be seen, there's good money to be made here. Every table points to a Kangaroo win, and by more than 11 points.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Kangaroos should be able to cover the 11 point start to post their 4<sup>th</sup> win of the season and -11.5 @ \$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.

Kangaroos Predicted StatRating™: **500 -560**

Points Range: **112 - 124**

Western Bulldogs Predicted StatRating™: **380 - 440**

Points Range: **84 - 96**

Considering the 11 point start, this game again could provide good value for Spread betting. A margin in the vicinity of 25 points is expected.

**ACTUAL RESULTS: Kangaroos 18.11.119 (521) Western Bulldogs 19.6.120 (450)**

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