

Western Bulldogs vs. Essendon

Head to Head – Western Bulldogs vs. Essendon

Round	Venue	WB Score	Ess Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Western Bulldogs StatRating™	Essendon StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
6	TD	81	144	-63	14.0	9.0	294	667	-373
21	MCG	92	81	11	15.3	15.4	268	442	-174
2001									
14	TD	76	154	-78	11.5	9.5	451	653	-201
2002									
14	TD	118	118	0	10.6	8.5	536	726	-190
2003									
4	TD	110	129	-19	11.1	11.3	539	441	98
19	TD	80	147	-67	14.3	9.2	336	709	-374
	Average	93	129	-36	12.8	10.5	404	606	-202

The one constant in the last 6 games between these sides is goals, goals, and goals. They have produced some extremely high scores over the past 4 years, with the Doggies only win coming in the round 21 2000 game which produced the now famous flood. The Bombers have enjoyed much success against the Western Bulldogs, and boast a very high average of 129 and StatRating™ of 606 over the past 6 games. With the Bombers nearing full strength, and playing at their favourite venue, there's no doubt they will enter this game as firm favourites.

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
2004										
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
6	MO	Kang	120	119	1	10.0	9.8	450	521	-71
Average			95	108	-12	10.5	9.4	479	590	-111

The Western Bulldogs scored an amazing win last week, coming from 32 points down at ¾ time, and booting 7 straight to get up by 1 point. It was the first time they had played at Manuka Oval, and all the goal kicking practice during the week paid off as they kicked a deadly 19.6.120! The week before they scored 7.22.64, so it's incredible how much can happen in one week of football! The worrying sign for the Doggies is their StatRating™. Even though their possession per score is very efficient, it's the opposition StatRating™ which is a concern. The Hawks StatRating™ of 408 was in blustery conditions at the MCG, while the Kangaroos 521 was also played in indifferent conditions last week. These are relatively high StatRating™ figures, yet are the lowest of the last 5 games in which the Western Bulldogs have contested. They will play in perfect conditions on Friday night at Telstra Dome, which suggests another 600+ StatRating™ for the opposition. The other negative is their inability to register a win on the stats sheet while winning the game. Here are their previous results in similar circumstances over the past few years.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Western Bulldogs StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
11	TD	Adel	127	97	30	9.1	10.3	517	583	-66
12	SS	Geel	94	87	7	14.4	13.2	258	363	-105
12	SS	Geel	94	87	7	14.4	13.2	258	363	-105
13	Optus	Carl	92	153	-61	11.4	9.0	472	631	-160
2002										
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
9	SS	Geel	117	105	12	12.0	14.5	357	429	-72
10	MCG	Rich	117	98	19	8.9	9.6	552	583	-31
10	MCG	Rich	117	98	19	8.9	9.6	552	583	-31
11	Optus	Freo	145	80	65	10.1	15.2	616	310	306
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
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

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 Bulldog's StatRating™ in the following week. 9 games over the past 3 years for 6 losses and 3 wins. 2002 wins against Richmond, and Fremantle at Optus Oval were expected, but their StatRating™ and last 4 losses are a good indication of what could result this week. Note the high StatRating™ figure the opposition has scored in these last 4 games.

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										
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
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
Average			107	96	10	11.7	11.4	476	451	25

The Bombers are starting to produce what the good judges at the start of the season were getting excited about. Many had the Bombers in their top 4 this year, and as their injured players have returned, the Bombers have produced on the scoreboard. They now have 4 straight wins, and are back on track after 2 terrible losses at the start of the season. Perhaps considering that St Kilda have won 6 straight, and Port Adelaide have only dropped one game,, the Bombers have done well considering the sides on the field when they played these clubs. Last week against the Swans, they had the game won after booting the opening few goals of the last quarter, and literally went to sleep. Some fortunate umpiring decisions went their way through the Swans onslaught, and they were able to hang on by 10 points in the end. Their averages in the last 4 weeks have picked up, and playing at Telstra Dome this week should only enhance these figures. Their current playing levels were difficult to match up, as they haven't returned these kinds of figures often in the past. Only 2 games were found that matched their current playing style, and are tabled below.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Ess Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Essendon StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2001										
15	TD	Geel	127	112	15	9.9	10.3	537	494	43
16	MCG	Kang	171	159	12	8.3	7.9	689	634	54
2003										
18	MCG	Carl	90	56	34	12.0	12.9	475	381	94
19	TD	WB	147	80	67	9.2	14.3	709	336	374

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 Bombers StatRating™ in the following week. The round 16 2001 game is a while ago, but produced a shootout that has not been matched since. The Bombers came back from 63 points down that day to beat the Kangaroos in one of the all time classics. The round 18 2003 form is much more interesting though, as it is current, and they went on to beat the Western bulldogs at Telstra Dome in the following week! Their StatRating™ of 709 in this game is in line with both the increased levels that should come this week from playing at this stadium, and also in line with the Doggies opposition StatRating™ as previously mentioned.

Western Bulldogs – Form at Telstra Dome

Round	Venue	Opp Team	WB Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	Opossession Per Score	Western 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
		Average	137	144	-7	7.8	8.2	730	746	-16

The Western Bulldogs form at Telstra Dome over the past 2 years reads 26 games, for just 5 wins. Their 2002 form at this ground was pretty good considering they only won 3 games out of 11, and yet were able to match it as far as averages are concerned on the scoreboard. 2003 was far worse, as the 2 wins meant an average losing margin of 30 points, and an equally high opposition StatRating™ of 593. In 9 of the last 14 games at this venue, they have allowed the opposition to register a StatRating™ upwards of 600, and 5 times over 700. That equates to some hefty scores, and given their opposition StatRating™ at all venues this season, there nothing to suggest it wont happen again this week.

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
		Average	99	113	-14	14.2	10.4	389	550	-161

The Bombers form at Telstra Dome reads the opposite to that of the Doggies. Only 6 losses in the past 20 games, equates to a 70 % strike rate here. Their averages improved significantly from 2002 to 2003, with Port Adelaide inflicting a 50 point loss in 2003 to match their 59 point drubbing of 2002. The Bombers injury worries attributed to their round 2 loss against Stkilda as well as recovering from a 96 point loss to you know who in round one – Port Adelaide. Very hard to fault their form at this venue, and the only remaining question to ask here is not if the Bombers will win, but by how much.

Western Bulldogs – Form after 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
2000										
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
11	SUB	Freo	174	81	93	9.4	11.8	620	390	230
12	TD	Melb	108	83	25	10.2	15.2	589	282	307
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
18	AAMI	Port	106	149	-43	12.0	8.1	435	655	-221
19	Optus	Carl	75	72	3	15.4	20.4	292	289	3
2001										
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
9	SUB	WCE	125	77	48	8.6	13.0	583	354	229
10	MCG	Kang	79	125	-46	11.0	9.5	444	613	-169
2003										
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
12	SCG	Syd	63	127	-64	13.4	9.6	357	592	-235
13	TD	Coll	85	128	-43	11.8	9.0	442	611	-169
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
21	YP	Stk	30	95	-65	19.7	11.5	178	564	-386
22	TD	Bris	86	170	-84	15.0	9.2	353	761	-408

This table was used last week in the analysis, as it was a main pointer to how the Bulldogs would perform on the road for the second week. It proved to be correct, as they followed their previous pattern of holding their form on the road. After registering 443 against Port Adelaide in round 5, they followed up with a 450 against the kangaroos in round 6. There is a case to say that sometimes you can look too far into meaningless stats, and this could be one of those tables. But there is just so much consistency here that it is difficult to ignore! Both occasions last year produced heavy losses, as did their 2001 form. Their 200 games again remained consistent, and kept to the same pattern. On these figures, you could argue that the Western Bulldogs StatRating™ this week should be very similar to the 400's registered in the past few weeks.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 4 wins, 1 loss and a draw in the Bombers favour since 2000.
- The Western Bulldogs current playing levels have been consistent this year. They allow opposition teams to rate extremely higher. Last week they won the game but lost on StatRating™, which usually produces a loss in the following week.
- The Bombers record from these levels was hard to assess, as only 2 games could be used for comparison. Both those games produced a high score and StatRating™ in the following week.
- The Western Bulldogs form at this Venue has been poor in the past, as their opposition consistently rates over 600. They have just 5 wins out of their last 26 games at this venue.
- The Bombers form at Telstra Stadium is a mirror image to that of the Western Bulldogs. They have a 70% winning Strike rate at this venue over the past 2 years.
- The Bulldogs form returning from consecutive interstate games has carried through for the past 4 years. This equates to a StatRating™ around the 400 mark this week.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Western Bulldogs	\$3.50
Essendon	\$1.33

At the Line

Western Bulldogs	\$1.90 (+23.5 points)
Essendon	\$1.90 (-23.5 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 the Essendon (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 23 points. In the Doggies case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 23 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 24 points or more, then you collect.

As stated earlier in the report, the Bombers should and win this game given the information at hand over the previous 6 pages. The question is by how much? We saw what happened last week when the Bombers got to a 40+ point lead. They took the foot off the pedal, and were happy to just register a win. Not taking anything away from the Swans, but you never quite know what Kevin Sheedy is thinking. They certainly have the form to blow this game apart this week, and expect that they will not only kick the highest score of the round, but also allow Matthew Lloyd to improve on his 26 goal haul he has managed against the Doggies in the past 4 games!

RECOMMENDATION: The Bombers should be able to cover the 23 point start in this game if they want to. This means -23.5 @ \$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.

Western Bulldogs Predicted StatRating™:	370 - 420
Essendon Predicted StatRating™:	560 – 620

Points Range:	78 - 90
Points Range:	124 - 136

Considering the expected StatRating™ and projected scores, the margin could be anywhere between 34 points and 58 here. Shop around for a spread in the vicinity of 26 points.

ACTUAL SCORE: Western Bulldogs 14.11.95 (463) Essendon 18.13.121 (584)

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