

Melbourne vs. Kangaroos

Head to Head – Melbourne vs. Kangaroos

Round	Venue	Melb Score	Kang Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Kangaroos StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000									
2	MCG	145	120	25	10.4	8.1	596	819	-223
17	MCG	102	103	-1	9.4	8.1	702	665	37
PF	MCG	156	106	50	8.1	12.0	859	357	502
2001									
14	MCG	93	121	-28	11.4	9.9	421	644	-223
2002									
9	MCG	111	107	4	11.0	8.2	474	684	-210
EF	MCG	122	84	38	9.8	9.8	599	543	56
2003									
15	MCG	94	101	-7	14.3	13.2	414	371	43
Average		118	106	12	10.6	9.9	581	583	-2

High scoring matches seem to be on the agenda every time these two sides meet! The record stands at 4-3 in Melbourne's favour, and the closeness between these sides in the past 4 years can be seen by the average StatRating™ which is almost identical. Melbourne's accuracy over the years has contributed to their superior average score of 118 to the Kangaroos 106, while the Roo boys have been able to maintain a slightly better efficiency at 9.9 to Melbourne's 10.6. On current Ladder placement, the Demons would be expected to start favourite here, but not by much.

Melbourne – Current Form

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
4	MCG	Port	124	71	53	9.2	14.1	596	311	284
5	TS	Syd	111	99	12	9.2	11.2	437	403	34
6	MCG	Carl	160	55	105	10.6	19.7	632	259	373
7	MCG	WCE	122	73	49	10.1	16.2	563	297	266
8	SS	Geel	87	101	-14	10.4	12.5	617	360	257
Average			121	80	41	9.9	14.7	569	326	243

Melbourne continues to improve this year, and after 6 straight wins, many had predicted they would stumble against Geelong at Skilled Stadium. They had only won 2 of their last 20 games at this venue, but still went in slight favourites against Geelong. They did kick the opening 2 goals of the game, but then Geelong took charge and booted the next 8 goals. Whilst the Demons found themselves 40 points behind at the 4 minute mark of the 3rd quarter, that deficit had been cut down to 1 point at the 5 minute mark of the last quarter. They just couldn't get their nose in front, and Geelong then took charge again. It did show how quick they can cut a margin back, something that they haven't had to do since their Sydney game. The real positive to come from the game was their StatRating™ figures. They did lose the game, but won comprehensively on the stats sheet. A whopping 617 was recorded to Geelong's 360. The bigger the StatRating™ Margin, the better the strike rate with this stat. Below are games where Melbourne have met this criteria in the past.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
1	MCG	Rich	92	94	-2	10.1	11.5	615	445	170
2	MCG	Kang	145	120	25	10.4	8.1	596	819	-223
3	SCG	Syd	114	126	-12	10.7	9.8	674	563	111
4	MCG	Stk	165	75	90	8.2	13.8	699	391	308
2001										
13	SUB	WCE	88	95	-7	12.2	15.8	394	285	109
14	MCG	Kang	93	121	-28	11.4	9.9	421	644	-223
2002										
13	TD	Ess	108	120	-12	10.8	10.2	603	469	134
14	Gabba	Bris	131	110	21	10.4	9.2	521	663	-142
2003										
2	MCG	Ess	75	112	-37	11.5	11.7	503	409	95
3	TD	WB	127	95	32	11.5	11.6	496	464	33
16	MCG	Haw	106	113	-7	9.5	10.5	567	487	80
17	MCG	Ess	71	88	-17	13.7	14.0	351	406	-55

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 Melbourne's StatRating™ in the following week. As can be seen, the best strike rate is achieved in the games where Melbourne's StatRating™ Margin is relatively high. 3 of their 4 wins were in 2000, and 2002, the years that closely match their most recent form. StatRating™ figures in those games of 600 match their current form, while they averaged a scoreboard figure around 147! A score line within 4 goals of that score would be enough to secure victory this week.

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
2004										
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
6	MO	WB	119	120	-1	9.8	10.0	521	450	71
7	TD	Bris	76	120	-44	15.0	11.1	328	524	-196
8	TD	Port	140	48	92	9.3	21.8	631	193	439
Average			94	108	-14	11.6	13.2	440	434	6

After 4 lean weeks, the Kangaroos broke loose and savaged a shameful Port Adelaide. They kicked an amazing 16 unanswered goals before Port Adelaide kicked 3 late goals to bring the margin back under 100 points. It was the best way possible for Shannon Grant to celebrate his 200th game, and a great way to snap a losing streak. Their StatRating™ of 631 is their highest StatRating™ of the season, which begs the question; Have they peaked? The paltry StatRating™ of 193 for Port Adelaide meant that the Kangaroos StatRating™ Margin of 439 confirms this peak. Again, the higher the StatRating™ Margin, the higher the strike rate of a peak performance. Below are games where the Kangaroos have met these criteria in the past.

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2000										
10	MCG	Freo	148	60	88	8.3	14.8	743	292	452
11	MCG	Carl	99	129	-30	12.2	11.7	427	412	16
12	SCG	Port	76	59	17	10.5	16.4	636	318	318
13	MCG	Ess	70	119	-49	17.7	9.9	215	658	-443
16	SUB	WCE	113	52	61	9.0	16.9	664	255	410
17	MCG	Melb	103	102	1	8.1	9.4	665	702	-37
2001										
11	TD	Freo	154	68	86	8.6	16.3	764	252	512
12	MCG	Haw	98	101	-3	9.6	11.8	653	407	247
2002										
16	Optus	Port	99	70	29	8.1	11.7	691	299	392
17	TD	WB	105	139	-34	10.4	10.1	556	577	-21

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 Kangaroos StatRating™ in the following week. The Kangaroos have lost 4 out of 5 games when faced with these current playing levels. Most of the data comes from some time back, with their most recent playing levels being round 16 2002. Average opposition score in these games is up around 118 points, which ties in nicely with their averages before the Port Adelaide game. To their credit, they have managed some decent StatRating™ figure in the latter games, but had very good form going into them. They won 6 out of 8 games between rounds 8 and 15 in 2001, and scored two 500+ games in rounds 14 and 15 in 2002. Against a bottom 8 side this week, they would have a chance, but it gets a little harder against a Top 2 side.

Melbourne – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Melb Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Melbourne StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
1	MCG	Haw	129	103	26	9.8	8.7	511	574	-63
2	MCG	Port	109	82	27	10.9	9.4	422	489	-67
3	MCG	Rich	76	96	-20	13.7	10.5	350	517	-167
7	MCG	Stk	105	102	3	9.9	10.8	606	427	179
9	MCG	Kang	111	107	4	11.0	8.2	474	684	-210
11	MCG	Coll	75	126	-51	12.2	10.9	400	466	-66
16	MCG	Haw	67	93	-26	13.2	14.0	387	330	57
18	MCG	Rich	94	99	-5	11.2	10.2	384	462	-78
20	MCG	WB	107	95	12	9.6	12.5	615	407	208
21	MCG	Syd	77	145	-68	14.3	9.8	356	582	-225
EF	MCG	Kang	122	84	38	9.8	9.8	599	543	56
SF	MCG	Adel	118	130	-12	6.7	8.9	690	609	81
		Average	99	105	-6	11.0	10.3	483	507	-25
2003										
1	MCG	Haw	106	100	6	12.0	10.8	426	539	-113
2	MCG	Ess	75	112	-37	11.5	11.7	503	409	95
6	MCG	WCE	94	127	-33	12.0	8.3	410	618	-208
7	MCG	Port	111	84	27	10.6	13.7	567	387	180
8	MCG	Rich	103	112	-9	11.8	10.5	465	523	-58
9	MCG	Freo	71	101	-30	16.0	14.4	368	326	42
11	MCG	Coll	77	133	-56	10.1	9.9	512	543	-31
13	MCG	Stk	136	94	42	10.0	11.7	528	403	125
15	MCG	Kang	94	101	-7	14.3	13.2	414	371	43
16	MCG	Haw	106	113	-7	9.5	10.5	567	487	80
17	MCG	Ess	71	88	-17	13.7	14.0	351	406	-55
19	MCG	Geel	45	84	-39	16.6	9.9	217	527	-310
22	MCG	Syd	60	94	-34	14.9	11.6	228	422	-194
		Average	88	103	-15	12.5	11.6	427	459	-31
2004										
1	MCG	Haw	70	119	-49	13.3	9.4	398	572	-173
2	MCG	Rich	135	76	59	9.1	19.6	762	219	543
3	MCG	WB	97	87	10	7.8	11.1	781	422	359
4	MCG	Port	124	71	53	9.2	14.1	596	311	284
6	MCG	Carl	160	55	105	10.6	19.7	632	259	373
7	MCG	WCE	122	73	49	10.1	16.2	563	297	266
		Average	118	80	38	10.0	15.0	622	347	275

Melbourne's form at the MCG this year has been outstanding. The Western Bulldogs game has been their lowest winning margin, and they still managed to post a StatRating™ Margin of 359! The round 1 Hawthorn clash just defies logic. Even with the Hawks StatRating™ of 572 included, their average opposition StatRating™ is a meager 347. They have been able to restrict the opposition to around 11 goals, to post some big wins. An interesting point to consider is that of the 6 teams they have faced at the MCG this year, 5 are in the bottom 8, while their Top 8 scalp in Port Adelaide just can't play at the MCG! Don't want to dampen these figures, but they need to be seen for what they are.

Kangaroos – Form at MCG

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2002										
6	MCG	Haw	87	155	-68	12.9	10.7	364	635	-271
9	MCG	Melb	107	111	-4	8.2	11.0	684	474	210
10	MCG	Ess	92	84	8	8.7	12.9	748	379	369
21	MCG	Haw	119	104	15	8.7	11.7	622	480	142
EF	MCG	Melb	84	122	-38	9.8	9.8	543	599	-56
		Average	98	115	-17	9.6	11.2	592	514	79
2003										
1	MCG	Stk	96	70	26	11.7	16.8	496	293	204
15	MCG	Melb	101	94	7	13.2	14.3	371	414	-43
19	MCG	Freo	98	99	-1	13.0	12.1	455	397	58
		Average	98	88	11	12.6	14.4	441	368	73
2004										
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
		Average	121	85	36	10.1	12.7	535	388	147

The Kangaroos are no slouches when it comes to playing at the MCG. Their opening 3 games resulted in 3 good wins, again against sides in the bottom 8 of the Ladder. They rarely kick less than 100 points at this venue, and their opposition averages in the past 2 years have also been kept low. Opposition StatRating™ of 368 and 388 in the past 2 years is excellent, but again, the quality of the opposition in those games needs to be looked at. They are yet to play at the MCG following a big StatRating™ Margin since 2002. A quick check of the previous years in their current form table shows 3 of their 4 losses were recorded at the MCG.

Games against Top 8 sides

Round	Venue	Opp Team	Kang Score	Opp Score	Game Result	Possession Per Score	OPossession Per Score	Kangaroos StatRating™	Opposition StatRating™	StatRating™ Margin
2004										
5	TD	Stk	65	130	-65	10.8	10.7	381	596	-215
7	TD	Bris	76	120	-44	15.0	11.1	328	524	-196
8	TD	Port	140	48	92	9.3	21.8	631	193	439
		Average	94	99	-5	11.7	14.5	447	438	9
2004										
4	MCG	Port	124	71	53	9.2	14.1	596	311	284
8	SS	Geel	87	101	-14	10.4	12.5	617	360	257
		Average	106	86	20	9.8	13.3	606	336	271

Considering 8 weeks have passed, these 2 sides haven't played too many top 8 sides yet. The Demons form here is very good, with copybook performances against both sides. The Kangaroos recent performance against Port lifts their profile in this area, and certainly masks their 2 other games against Brisbane and Stkilda with their averages. This game will provide a good insight into how relevant this stat is, with the Demons and the Kangaroos at opposite ends of the scale.

Final Summary

- Head to Head Contests are 4-3 in Melbourne's favour, with little between them on the Stats sheet.
- Melbourne's current form is faultless, and posted a StatRating™ Margin of 257 even though they lost the game. Strike rate in the following week from these levels is high.
- The Kangaroos had a huge win last week, and most probably have peaked. Their StatRating™ Margin of 439 indicates they could come back down this week.
- Melbourne's record at the MCG this year is impeccable, and has an average score of 118 here. In fact is a mirror image from last year's figures.
- The Kangaroos also have good form at the MCG, with 5 wins from their last 6 appearances. Their average score over the last 2 years has been 109.
- Melbourne's form against Top 8 sides is equal to the Kangaroos as both have 1 win, but Melbourne's StatRating™ figures stack up a lot better than the Kangaroos.

Current odds on offer from Sports Bookmakers are

Melbourne **\$1.65**
Kangaroos **\$2.30**

At the Line

Melbourne **\$1.90 (-8.5 points)**
Kangaroos **\$1.90 (+8.5 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 Melbourne (\$1.90), but they will have to win by more than 8 points. In the Kangaroos case, you will be offered a lesser price, but they will have the ability to lose by up to 8 points or even win the game, for you to collect. As long as they don't lose by 9 points or more, then you collect.

With both teams good record at the MCG, it's no wonder that they seem to belt out high scoring entertaining football every time they meet. Melbourne looks as though they want to play finals football this year, and just continue to play an exciting brand of football. If you were presented with the final stats sheet before last weeks game, you wouldn't have been able to get enough on them. There's nothing to suggest they won't continue playing that brand of football this week back at the MCG. The Kangaroos incredulous score line of 21 goals to 4 goals late into the game against Port Adelaide had to be seen to be believed. Whenever a score like that appears, there are deep problems somewhere. Port's injury list and lack of midfield movers might be starting to tell, but all praise to the Kangaroos for taking full advantage of this. But they won't have that same luxury this week.

RECOMMENDATION: Melbourne to continue their March towards the Finals. -8.5 @ \$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.

Melbourne Predicted StatRating™: **570 - 630**
Kangaroos Predicted StatRating™: **400 - 460**

Points Range: **120 - 132**
Points Range: **88 - 100**

Based on current data, Melbourne has the ability to blow this game apart. The spread should be around 10 points, and full steam ahead on this bet.

ACTUAL SCORE: Melbourne 13.18.96 (475) Kangaroos 11.12.78 (399)

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