

OFFICIALS ECSTATIC AT '73 RULES BOOM

GOLD Coast Australian Football officials are ecstatic at the boom in the code this season. (By DON BROWN)

With only one quarter of the season gone, records are being broken left, right and centre.

Player registrations and attendances are way up, and even the Umpires' Association has reported a big upsurge in the number of umpires available in the last few weeks.

Junior football and primary school football is surging ahead, while a high school competition is being organised over the May holidays.

The Sundale handball competition, which is going so well, is proving to be a huge publicity boost for the game, as are the recent inter-club radio shows on 4GG and 2MW.

Players this season are competing for a huge array of prizes and cash awards as well as two car awards — the Leon McGrath Leyland Motors car award (A Grade), and the G and B Motors-Britsel Products car award (Reserves).

The amazing thing about the latter award is that G and B Motors are not established on the Gold Coast but are

situated at Wynnum in Brisbane.

After last weekend's feats of football, the record home and home game at Owen Park and the sensational game of the year on Monday, it's no wonder that popular League president, Frank Sutherland, has a grin a mile wide.

Match of the day

Labrador on Sunday is at home to the 'giant killers', Palm Beach Currumbin.

After last Monday's brilliant effort by the Lions to down Southport, Labrador will need more than the luck of the Irish to win this one.

Sure, the Tigers are on the improve, but so are the Lions.

Brian Gibsons, who sensationally returned to Labrador last week, will be out for several weeks with torn knee ligaments. With the 'geriatric giant' in the team, the Tigers could have made a game of it.

The Lions, with their overall strength and with players like John Ford, whose performance on Monday was nothing short of

amazing, will be too strong, even on the small Labrador oval.

The unbeaten Currumbin Reserves team must start favourites in the curtain raiser, although Labrador thrashed Surfers last week and should be given a chance.

Labrador's Reserve team is: (F), Morrison, Wagner, Jones; (HF), Clarke, Winchester, Dwyer; (C), Hollindale, Dornbusch, Dawes; (HB), Arnold, W. Cooke, Van Der Poel; (B), Crocker, O'Connell, Cook; (R), Milham, Saunders, Love; Reserves: Spencer, Hedke, Baker, Colas.

In the early 10pm Colts game, Labrador play Palm Beach-Currumbin.

Southport versus Broadbeach

Both supporters of Southport and Broadbeach are hoping for a repeat of Monday's exciting game at Owen Park on Sunday.

Broadbeach are eagerly chasing their second win,

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However, it would be the biggest surprise of the year if the Cats defeat Southport.

Broadbeach played their best football for some time last week, and those who saw the game predict that the Cats will really shake the foundations of the leading teams before the season is over.

Southport, however, is out for a big win and Broadbeach will really have to pull something out of the bag to win this one.

In the Reserve game at Owen Park, Southport is

expected to have an easy win over the Broadbeach team, which has yet to win a match.

Another one-sided affair at Peak Oval. To win this, Coolangatta would need to have 36 players on the field.

Even then it would be close.

The Demons supporters were glad to see Don Franks back in top gear last Sunday — if there is anyone on the Coast who can lift a team it is this player.

Surfers had a slight slump at one stage, but from now on it's up and away — and any team which meets the Demons in the future will know it.

Coolangatta Reserves could test the Surfers team in the earlier game.

A Gold Coast combined high schools team will travel to Mt Gravatt to compete in the Queen's Birthday competition this year.

Former teachers' star player, Peter Kunkel, who is organising training at Miami High, advises that Miami, Southport and Palm Beach-Currumbin High Schools will have a competition to select a high school team to compete in the quarter-finals of the high school competition in Brisbane during July.

He also advises that the

Queensland Under 17 schoolboy trios commence on Sunday, May 25, at Windsor Park, Brisbane, at 9am.

Handball

The players representing their clubs at tomorrow morning's handball competition at 9.30am at Sundale are:

Bob Freestone (SP), B. Adams (C), M. Miller (PBC), I. Hall (B), J. Haslem (S), P. Hicks (L).

Gold Coast Bulletin, May 11 1978, p.57

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