

BLUES CRUSHED MAGPIES IN FULL FLIGHT

THE Southport Magpies left no doubts that they are the giants of Gold-Coast Australian Football when they relentlessly overpowered Coolangatta Blues to win their third successive A grade premiership at Salk Oval, Carruthrin, on Sunday.

Their effortless win over the Blues completed a double hat-trick of premiership for the club as their Reserves earlier won their third flag in a row (see story P. 24).

It was Southport's big and very noisy crowd of Blues on hand, leading all the way to victory at 47 points.

Final scores: Southport 25-18-150; Coolangatta 12-9-57.

More than 3000 people witnessed the grand final and club selectors signing their customary first names and the sides lined up with several changes in their line-ups.

The Magpies were coached at half-back by Zane Taylor as did forward line. The Blues posted Wayne Rowan with Mike Darby coached from the bench.

The Magpies were quickly made aware for early goals from Bob Walsh and Zane Taylor.

Play was fast and furious as the Magpies' numerous tall backs fell into the circle at a brutal opening which included the big goal.

Warren Skinner scored the Blues first goal but Ken Clark, who was scoring, dangerous on the Southport forward line, was awarded a difficult mark and goal.

Ken Tucker, who was playing strongly for the Blues, was held and held off the scoring post.

However, their defence was being outplayed by the last Southport defence while Brian Skirrow was strong and Ted Edwards with.

Bill Ryan, Walter and Clark added goals for the Blues while the Blues defence through Morgan

Wright and Clark (4) were a chief goal set for the Blues, who scored 7, showing 10 goals for the game.

Tucker, Nielde and 19th man John Taylor were trying desperately to all the Blues, but the Magpies' defensive line, although on the game.

Southport had wrecked the Blues hopes of grabbing their first premiership.

The Blues, still in a lead from early, three points into the game and they were, successfully disposed when Brian Wallard Skinner outlast.

However, the responsible Blues goal set twice to record his ninth major in 17 grand displays.

The final test was marked by a series of running fields among players, which kept some spectators entertained and means that successful.

Southport seemed to be in defence and had many winners on their forward line in Bakes and Clark.

The Blues disappointed their supporters, but they attack the Magpies at their base and were powerful to win the initiative from their confident rivals.

HAT-TRICK OF PREMIERSHIPS

Harrel Bakes was making strategy on the Southport forward line and his goal gave his side a lead.

Both sides managed to score extra points into their game and the spectators were treated to a fine passage of play.

Like machine

Bob Walsh was scoring goals for the Magpies and the Southport machine suddenly moved into top gear while the Coolangatta defence foundered.

Dearel Bakes, with a superb display of ball marking, was the centre and defence work opened with Ken Clark getting in top mark but from Alan Simmons, the Magpies swept in an unbreakable lead.

Headed clashes

A couple of fights broke out during the play, but the Magpies were not at top of Clark and Bakes, who had further injuries to give a further lead of quite size.

The Magpies were successfully harassing the Blues most notably by Skirrow, John Nielde and Alan Morrison, with Ken Conway and Geoff Bowk respectively. Clark was leading while a very dancy but his local Coolangatta defender was making close.

The Blues defence suffered in the second half with Rob Simpson, Mick Kahan and Phil Wilson combining well to neutralise several Southport attacks.

Morgan and Nielde were getting into the game and Brian Clark was coming back inside the

and Clark in an even quarter.

The Magpies held the lead and the Blues could be 20 points to the long interval.

Alan Simmons did not support in the third term, he was replaced by Peter Taylor in the Magpies' half forward line.

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Fumbling Blues torn apart by Magpie machine

SOUTHPORT Magpies turned the tables on Coolangatta Blues when they scored a crushing win in Sunday's Aussie Rules reserve grade grand final by 47 points.

The Blues had beaten the Magpies in the second semi-final, but had no answer to their superior strength of the Pies on Sunday.

In winning Southport achieved their third successive reserve grade premiership.

The Magpies led throughout and increased their lead in every quarter to have the game in the bag at three quarters when they led by eight.

Southport won clearly in the air where their taller players consistently pulled down strong marks and their ball handling was much surer than their opponents, who missed many scoring opportunities through fumbling and uncertainty.

The Magpies defence never faltered where Phil Hertz, Gerry Leaghy, Wayne Riebel and Hank Allard formed a dour

hard-hitting combination and busted their opponents into errors.

Coolangatta's defence was also very sound and Steve Law, John Smith and Mick Horan stood up well to their task and hurled back many Southport attacks.

There were several unsavory incidents during the game which reflected no credit upon those concerned.

Polished display

Stewie Miles was the most constructive player in the game and his polished display and fine disposal gave the Southport forwards plenty of scoring chances.

Tony Wolfe was an effective half forward and showed the value of good positional play.

Phil Hertz, who has played all season with the Colts, played a strong

game in defence for the Magpies and helped shut the Blues forwards out of the game.

Gary Miller, the Coolangatta winger had a bright game and controlled his flank while Neville Sharp battled hard in the ruck against taller opponents and Abstair Smith, who started at full forward, played well in defence.

Coolangatta's loss would have been much greater had it not been for the dashing Steve Law.

He turned on a great game in defence for the Blues and was clearly their best player.

The Magpies proved by their strength and team work that they are worthy premiers for 1977.

Best players: S. Miles (Southport), S. Law (Coolangatta), T. Wolfe (Southport).

Tug-o-war!

DURING the first quarter of the reserve grade grand final, the crowd at Salk Oval was stunned when umpire called a bit to proceedings and lined up both sides for a hand-stand.

A Southport player had the best appearance and a tug-of-war then took place between officials of the rival clubs.

With the hopeless Southport player in the middle of it, it would have been comical had the possible consequences not been so serious.

Southport made sure the game had the team revealed an extra player on the ground. Apparently the umpire were confused that everything was in order as the game proceeded soon after.

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