

Zane doubtful starter!

GOLD Coast Australian Football premiers for the past three years, Southport Magpies, are likely to be without their State representative, Zane Taylor, for tomorrow's grand final against Coolangatta Blues at Salk Oval, Currumbin.

Taylor, although named in the Southport grand final selection squad, is a doubtful starter with a serious thigh injury suffered in last Sunday's preliminary final against Surfers Paradise.

The star centreman was taken from the field early and his absence will be a severe blow to the Magpies against the premiership favourites.

The Blues, a team-work machine throughout the season, have selected a side which does not include the Papuan flyer, David Haro.

Earlier this month, Coolangatta officials were confident Haro would be able to make the journey down from Port Moresby for the big match.

He was signed up by the Blues midway through the season after the PNG tour side played here against the Gold Coasters.

However, the acrobatic Haro was forced to return to his homeland for a government training course — and he hasn't been able to make it back to the Coast.

Score to settle

The premiership will be decided by 5pm and the champagne will flow from the magnificent premiership cup in the exultant hands of the victors.

Coolangatta has a score to settle with their rivals tomorrow as the Magpies defeated them in last year's grand final.

The Magpies' indomitable fighting spirit and

Pies after No. 4

intense pride in their club's achievement will ensure that the game will be fiercely contested.

The majority of football followers favour Coolangatta to win their first flag.

Their form has been hard to fault with only the one defeat during the season and a commanding success in the semi-final over the Demons.

Southport have had to struggle this season to keep themselves in the premiership race.

But they've won through to contest their fourth successive grand final, so they'll lack nothing in finals experience.

The Blues will field a powerful well-balanced combination with a nice

blending of speed and physical strength.

They team well and back-up all over the ground. The rucks are not tall, but their strength lies in their mobility and clever positional play.

Peter Staker, Phil Wilson, Laurie Queay and Alan Holmes are a formidable quartet in which ever combination they may operate.

They'll sustain perpetual pressure upon Southport's rucking division.

Bill Ryan's great ruck play in the preliminary final was a tonic to the Magpies.

They'll be hoping for a repeat performance against the Blues.

CONT'D P84

Gold Coast Bulletin: September 23 1978, p88

www.southportsharkshistory.com.au



Celebrating 50 years!