

MAGPIES RALLIED

SOUTHPORT led all the way to win the Under-19 Aussie Rules premiership by 27 points from Labrador last Sunday at Currumbin's Salk Oval.

The Magpies bigger players won well in the air and their forwards combined better than the Tigers to keep ahead.

Labrador battled hard to keep in touch with their opponents and levelled the scores early in the final term.

But the Magpies rallied and turned on their best football for the game to go on to a convincing win and the premiership by 11-16 (82) to 7-13 (55).

Southport opened brightly against the stiff diagonal breeze with two early goals before the Tigers settled down.

Andy Child and Jim Hodge were having a great tussle in the ruck in the opening minutes.

Brad Allen, the Magpies half forward, was playing

strongly and Southport looked a confident side.

The Tigers attacked strongly through Kev Martin and Steve Tobiano, but several easy shots were astray and they were squandering their wind advantage.

Mick Beitz and Ewan Johns worked hard to keep their opponents off balance near goal and Labrador's string of behinds was a poor reward with only one goal for the term.

Southport took over with the breeze behind them and spent long periods in attack.

But the Tigers defence, led by David Ballis at full back and Peter Hutchinson, stood firm.

The Magpies were off target until Single scored their third goal.

Brad Allen, in the centre, was winning hands down and his lively play created many opportunities for his forwards.

Ballis, at full back for the Tigers, was defending superbly with safe marking and great dash to clear repeatedly.

Chris Kinnell raised the Tigers hopes when he outpaced several opponents to goal.

The Tigers could not get going and several players seemed out of touch and lacked confidence.

Kev Martin, Tobiano, Burns and Hutchinson fought desperately to get the Tigers going, but Southport, although their lead, was not great, appeared the steadier side.

Andy Child was playing well in Southport's ruck and it was noticeable that they lost momentum when he rested.

But goals by Regan Menyweather and ruckman Wockner put the Magpies in a strong position.

The Tigers came back for Martin and Chris Kinnell to goal. Tobiano's speed was getting him clear, but the forwards were easily brushed aside by the strong Southport defence.

Menyweather was burning at half-forward and Allen was superb in the centre for the Pies.

The Tigers were playing better with Hodge taking over in the air and Burns roving well.

Best players: Brad Allen (S), Regan Menyweather (S), David Ballis (L).

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