

Bill Ryan's clearance skyrockets

By GOALSNEAK

SOUTHPORT'S hopes for the 1975 Aussie Rules premiership were boosted during the week when former VFL star, Bill Ryan, was cleared by Coorparoo. The clearance has been a controversial issue for several weeks and it was felt the burly ruckman would fail to gain the nod following talks in Brisbane a week ago.

Ryan, 30, joined Coorparoo two seasons ago from VFL club, Geelong, and was responsible for that club's rise in the Brisbane competition as well as the improved showing by the State side in inter State matches.

Ryan told the Bulletin yesterday he was delighted that Coorparoo had granted the clearance and was looking forward to playing on the Gold Coast.

State side

He trained with the State side in Brisbane on Wednesday and said he

was available to play for Queensland in the game against Tasmania in Brisbane on May 18.

Southport president, Dr Alan McKenzie, said the news of Ryan's clearance was like a breath of fresh air and had lifted club morale 100 per cent.

He added that the ruckman's vast experience would have a big bearing on the many young players within the Southport club.

Two more

Dr McKenzie said the club had also applied for two other players from Coorparoo — Steve

Hunter, a utility player from Geelong Reserves, and Mike Mansfield, from Mt Gambier.

He said there was hope for a clearance for Hunter, but a late report is that Mansfield has returned to South Australia.

Maggie coach, Bob Webb, is another who is pleased that the Ryan clearance is finally received.

Strong group

He said there was a strong group now in training at Owen Park and Ryan's ability was sure to enhance the club's prospects for the 1975 premiership.

Webb said the Maggies had secured several outstanding recruits for the coming season.

He said two of these, Steve Merritt and former Footscray player, Zane Taylor, had shown terrific form so early in the season.

In training

Webb added that most of last year's team were now in training and if there were going to be any shortages it would be in the rucking division.

The Maggies experienced similar problems last year.

The club has planned a social cricket outing at Owen Park No 3 tomorrow — players against the committee.

Players are required for the club's Under 19 team and those interested can attend training each Tuesday or Thursday afternoon at Owen Park.

Surfers 30

Surfers Paradise coach, Kevin Dore, says there are about 30 players in training at the Capri Oval and their pre-season work is encouraging.

Three recruits from Victoria have been signed, but will not arrive on the Coast for a fortnight.

Dore said most of last year's premiership side is again available, with the exception of Mike Demaine, who has accepted an incentive

coaching appointment in Victoria.

The Demons will stage three practice games before the season starts on April 6. However, most clubs will have trouble locating grounds which are not being used for cricket fields.

Boat trip

The club is planning a boat trip to Stradbroke Island on Easter Sunday and this is open to players, wives, officials and supporters.

Plans are also well advanced for a sports men's dinner on March 10 and special guests will include 'Mr Football', Ron Buruss, and former Rugby League star, Noel Kelly.

Further information in the Bulletin when it becomes available.

Lions confident

Down at Salk Oval, new coach, Noel Peters, has a bundle to say that the Lions will take out the '75 flag and there's bound to be plenty of takers at this time of the year.

The former utility player from St Kilda says training is well advanced, with all players displaying unusual vigour at such an early stage.

Dennis Thompson and Michael Andrews, two seasoned footballers, are reported to be burning.

Peters said five recruits from Victoria and Tasmania had already signed and were expected to arrive next weekend.

Although the club has lost Laurie Fowler, John Waddington, Larry Davey and Stephen Moore, officials report that the Gouey brothers will arrive in time for the opening game against Surfers Paradise.

Ready Inter

Other Lions, Peter Miller and Barry Oakley, are involved with surf carnivals, but will be available around mid-March. They should fit in quickly as both are extremely fit.

Livewire president, Frank Travaglia, says

Southport's rules hopes

club memberships are now available and can be collected from players and officials at Salk Oval any Tuesday or Thursday night.

He said alterations were planned for the club rooms and when completed, would provide better facilities for spectators.

Mr Travaglia added the Lions were fortunate in having an active committee but trainers and team managers were needed for all grades.

Incentive scheme

At Labrador, an incentive scheme for players has created quite a deal of interest. President, Keith Dawes, says the scheme involves social bonuses for both training and playing and it was possible for a player to earn up to \$60 a week.

More than 30 players are in training and coach, Joe Ambruse, injured in a road accident last week, was back on the track this week.

The Tigers are planning three pre-season games and will release details in the coming week.

Two recruits

Brian McNeil (Footscray) and Don Cook (Portland) are two recruits signed by Labrador in the last fortnight. Other Portland players now starting with the Tigers include Peter and Gary Kennard, Alan Peters, Darryl Peck, John Baker and John Edgecombe.

The Australian Football Council has replaced the centre diamond with a square measuring about 45 metres and the Gold Coast League will follow suit.

The same rules that applied to the diamond will apply to the square, with only the ruckmen, covers and centreman being allowed inside until the ball is bounced.

Secondary umpires will be positioned at the

disputed corners of the square.

Primary schools

Gold Coast primary schools are formulating plans for the coming season, with several new teams set to join the competition.

SPORT-7

With the growing support of parents, it's hoped Rules will be introduced into local high schools.

The move will be welcomed by many young footballers who are deprived of playing their favourite sport when they enter high school.

The League Tribunal was announced this week and consists of Messrs G. Drake, K. Cooke, E. Conway, D. Ross, V. Cox, L. Toncin and T. Mitchell.

They will meet, when necessary, on Wednesday nights at Scarborough House.

Gold Coast Bulletin: March 7 1975, p25

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