

# BILL RYAN TO STICK SOLID TO SOUTHPORT RULES

## ON THE BALL

By PETER MURPHY

FORMER VFL star, Bill Ryan, will NOT be leaving the Gold Coast to play with Brisbane Australian Rules club, Coorparoo.

Ryan has signed on to play with Southport this season.

Yet a Brisbane newspaper report rumoured that he told a Coorparoo committee member he would not play for Coorparoo unless he received \$3500.

Unless! I thought. Does this mean that if the 'Roos offered him three and a half grand he would play with them?

I immediately telephoned Ryan at his Main Beach home and put the question to him.

He said he didn't recall having made such a statement to the committeeman.

However, Ryan said, if he had he would have asked for \$4500.

### With 'Roos

He coached and played with the 'Roos the past two seasons but relinquished the position because of business commitments on the Coast.

The Queensland Australian Football League also is after Ryan for the State clash against Tasmania at the Gabba in May.

Big Bill said he possibly could make himself available for that game.

### Big gain

Signing on with Southport Magpies, he was the biggest gain for the club and for Gold Coast Rules.

I asked him what the sign-on fee was and he quipped: "It's never enough."

However, while not agreeing with my guess of \$3000, he didn't altogether deny it.

Ryan said he pulled up reasonably well after his first Coast game yesterday week at Salk Oval, Currumbin.

Playing with a com-

bined northern team against a representative southern Coast side, he said: "I didn't kill myself."

Ryan, who played centre half forward, denied a suggestion that he was outmatched by Souths' centre half back,

Kelvin Mills, of Palm Beach Currumbin.

### Elusive ball

"Neither of us saw much of the ball," Big Bill explained.

If this was the case, the former Geelong ruckman did extremely well in kicking five goals when he did get the ball.

Ryan said it takes him a few games to really get going, but he expects to be firing on all pistons from the start of the 1975 premiership competition.

There is only one thing which could prevent Big Bill from playing here the clearance from Coorparoo.

Southport are still waiting for it after making application early this month.

Gold Coast Bulletin, January 25 1975, p16

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