

MORE RULES BRAVLS

By JACK REBBECHI

Spectators, players slug it out and Peak oval becomes a bloody boxing ring

BOOZE MAY BE BANNED



MIKE DARRY (left) whose palliser team came as close as a coat of varnish to defeating the much vaunted Southport Magpies during Sunday's match. Darry left the field with a blood splattered face, but knowing that if any rules can save Southport it will be the Blues. The picture shows Darry in action during a previous game.

ONCE again, Sunday's Aussie Rules' match was marred by brawls among spectators.

In separate incidents, brawls twice broke out and spread on to the oval while the match was in progress.

In one incident the umpire had to stop the match, until the combatants were removed from the oval.

At least two players from non-competing clubs were involved in one brawl.

The ready sale of liquor at the grounds is, in my view, largely responsible. The big majority of football supporters enjoy a drink and the game, without being involved in any unpleasantness, but

the few louts, who can't handle liquor are going to spoil it for everyone.

The Gold Coast League executive have shown itself to be very strong in attempts to keep the games attractive and pleasant for supporters and their recommendations have been backed up by the clubs.

The Executive have already had a meeting on the Peak Oval incidents and have recommended action to the permit committee against registered players involved.

They have also recommended that liquor be banned at the final series.

BLUES ALMOST TOSSED THE MIGHTY PIES

In the fiery and exciting match at Peak Oval, the Magpies held on to their unbeaten record, but only after receiving their biggest fright of the year.

Only the great tenacity of Southport enabled them to get up and win.

A score of 23-8 is considered kicking in any language, but the forwards could be grateful of the way the ball was delivered to them.

The Magpies kicking against a stiff wind, started well and soon had two goals on the board via Howell and Weston.

The Blues were showing some respect for the reputation of their opposition, and combining well, breached several stanzas forward, and goals by Andrews, Darry and Sanderson put them in front.

They were dominating the play and soon filled the cheer with goals by Ford and Walsh.

With one the Magpies forward and Kelly goal, but Weston soon replied to keep the Blues well ahead.

Opportunities grasped

Towards the end of the game Rossie made the most of his opportunities to goal twice. Weston again was the driving force.

The Blues had a nice points margin at the first change.

In a tremendous second quarter effort, the Magpies response got overcast, and they kicked 9-1 for six points.

The quarter started evenly and the Blues were able to maintain their lead, and with players going in after the ball regardless, leaders started to fray and the biggest all in order of the year took out.

Players crashed in from everywhere, and the umpire was struggling to gain control as players jostled down and even sprawling on the oval.

When it was finally over, the umpire awarded a free kick as heathered blood stained Mike Darry, who with obvious ease held the ball up to the furious Southport supporters.

The referee seemed to spur the Magpies on and making full use of the wind, they poured on the goals.

At half time they lead a comfortable 29 points lead.

The third quarter was again even, with both teams showing class at times. Southport were holding the Blues against the oval, and it was goal for goal with both sides about eight minutes of the quarter left, the Blues with some brilliant football got

their quick goals to reduce the lead.

Coolangatta with many chances, were off target until Patterson with a tremendous punt goal to make the difference 7 points at 40 mins.

The Magpies kicked safe as they had the advantage of the wind in the final term, and Weston gained time slowly to make them look even safer, but the Blues had their ideas.

Patch of brilliance

In a patch of brilliant play, Darry hit top and rime goals put them in front. With Ford, Patterson and Walsh out standing and Mike Darry playing a real capital's game, they looked likely to put off the rest of the year.

Only two markings by Ryan and Tucker kept the oval wide full time crashing near, the Magpies finally attacked through Rossie to regain the lead, and seal the match with three more goals.

The Blues are a much better team, than I earlier gave them credit for, and soon certain to play in the Grand Final, where this season should be a berry.

Notes: R. Webb (SPT), J. Dool (CO), J. O'Neil (SPT).

SCORES AT A GLANCE

FIRSTS

SOUTHPORT	5-3	14-4	18-6	23-8	(146)
COOLANGATTA	8-6	8-11	15-17	18-21	(129)

BEST: Southport — R. Webb (top of grounds); G. Ross, P. Howell, D. Barra, D. Logan, J. Cost; Coolangatta — J. Ford, J. Patterson, M. Darry, M. Dool, G. Walsh, L. Wall.

GOALS: Southport — Hankin, J. Waller, J. O'Neil, J. Ryan, J. Howell, J. Sanderson, J. O'Neil, L. Kelly, J. Martin, J. Barr, J. O'Neil.

Coolangatta — Paul, J. Sanderson, J. Weston, J. Andrews, L. Darry, J. Walsh, J. Taylor, J. O'Neil.

RESERVES

SOUTHPORT 11-16 (82) v COOLANGATTA 6-12 (48)

BEST: S.S.P. — B. Hudd (best on ground); U. Hogg, K. Brown, U. Trower, G. Walsh, A. Rossie; Coolangatta — A. Scott, P. Hill, R. Rossie, P. Rossie, R. Hill, D. Logan.

Gold Coast Bulletin: June 17 1977: p.11

www.southportsharkhistory.com.au



Celebrating 50 years!

