

Magpies rule the roost for another year

THE Southport Magpies confirmed their position as the most powerful Aussie Rules team ever to play on the Gold Coast when they took out the 1976 premiership with a comfortable grand final win over the courageous Broadbeach Cats at Salk Oval, Currumbin, on Sunday.

It was a victory full expected by Coast AFL officials and the big crowd which attended the match, including many optimistic Broadbeach supporters.

Premiers last year, the Maggies won by 27 points, despite a strong finishing burst by the Cats, who were out to prove that it was not luck which gained them a grand final berth.

But Southport had the premiership sewn up at half time with a 45 points lead and were untroubled to hold out Broadbeach for a 14-11-95 to 9-14-68 win.

The big crowd witnessed a torrid, slogging, unspectacular grand final in which Broadbeach, with their customary tenacious, hard-tackling style, prevented the more accomplished Maggies from opening up the game and developing their greater skill.

Superior

Southport's superior attack, with Bill Ryan prominent in the first half, enabled them to establish a winning lead at half time.

Broadbeach fell down badly in attack against the strong defence of Zane Taylor and Brian Donoghue and their forwards lost many opportunities through inaccurate and hurried kicking.

The victory capped a great season by Southport as their reserves and Colts had earlier won their respective grand final matches.

The Cats were first to attack and Shane Littlejohn brought up the first score — a behind from a free kick.

But Southport quickly retaliated, when John Cheel kicked to Ryan deep in the pocket and the big fellow made no mistake for the first goal.

Brown missed a mark and let Kirby in for the second goal to the Maggies, and when Ryan

was freed on the half forward line and goaled with a big kick, Southport was looking good.

Ryan was a dominant player at centre half forward despite close attention from Young.

Spasmodic

The Cats were having trouble in developing any team-work and their spasmodic attacks were easily repulsed by the strong Magpie half backs.

When Ryan missed a mark, he played on and handballed to Cheel who goaled, and the Maggies raced to a good early lead.

Kevin Dore was marking strongly on the Broadbeach forward line, but Donoghue and Steve Hunter, he played on and handballed to Cheel who goaled, and the Maggies raced to a good early lead.

Kevin Maynard, Mick Burns and Greg Roberts were winning kicks for the Cats and were playing better, but several promising moves brought behinds when goals were badly needed.

The Cats finally broke the drought when Kelly received from Maynard and kicked straight.

Broadbeach was having more of the play, but couldn't kick straight and when Littlejohn hit the post to add to the string of behinds, Cat supporters were strangely silent.

Quarter time: Southport 4-2-26 to Broadbeach 1-8-14.

Tony Wolff, drifting down from the wing unattended, marked easily and increased the Southport lead with a goal.

Then Kirby, fortunate not to be fired for holding the ball, sent the ball to Wolff who goaled again with a long kick on the run.

Another long kick by Broadbeach's Mick Burns was just touched on the line by Southport's Dave Burns.

The first dust-up of the game, which had been played without violence, occurred after 10 minutes of the second quarter, but the umpires soon had the situation under control.

Taylor was too strong for Ross Webber and Graham Trevena was steady on the Southport half back line where the Cats kept breaking down.

Grant Lawrence and John Wojala were having a great deal in the ruck and both were good players for their sides.

Jones, who had been quiet, marked close in and goaled to give the Maggies a big lead.

Neither side was able to develop team work as the struggle continued.

The Maggies forward work was better with Ryan a danger, although he was being closely guarded by the Broadbeach defence.

Rusty Summersides and Bob Webber were roving well for their sides, but goals were hard to score and the big crowd was quiet.

Roberts accepted a pass from Summersides and posted the second goal for the Cats. Then Roberts passed nicely to the fast leading Dore whose long kick was just off line for a behind.

Punch-up

Violence erupted on the clubhouse flank in a wild melee and when Umpire Fuller resumed play, the Broadbeach defence was in disarray for the unattended Hyde to mark and goal with ease.

Dore, a good player for the Cats, was in the ruck and Littlejohn went to full forward, Lawrence looking somewhat the worse for wear, was recuperating in the forward pocket.

The game came to life and there was plenty of needle. Brown was tripped, but instead of taking the free kick he zapped Stewart, who gratefully took the result-free.

The Cats looked rattled and disorganised when Stewart, now on top in midfield, outmarked Steve Simunek and his long kick sailed through for another Southport goal.

The Maggies took a commanding lead at half time — 10-7-67 to 2-10-22.

Play saw-sawed between the defences with neither side able to break through.

Hunter, Taylor and Trevena were great defenders for the Pies

... COURAGEOUS CATS COULDN'T BRIDGE GAP

while Dunn, Johns and Young were equally strong for the Cats.

Broadbeach were rewarded when Summersides, snapped truly. The Cats were using the flanks with better results with Simunek, Summersides and Fleming doing well.

Chain passing

The best piece of play of the game was a chain of passes from the Southport back line found Ryan and a lightning hand pass to Lindsay Pawns in full flight who kicked a great goal with a raking drop kick.

Kirby to Webb to Ryan, an overhead hand-pass to Jordan whose kick was a shocker — out on the full.

The game was fierce and hectic and there was no place for the faint hearted. Taylor copped a beauty and Chapman ran into an indiscriminate boot.

Burns raised the Broadbeach hopes when he landed a 70 metre goal.

Both sides were making positional changes. Ryan twice marked to repel Broadbeach thrusts.

John and Dave Burns exchanged pleasantries behind play and the crowd was wide awake. Martin was on in place of Kelly and he passed to Dore,

who goaled after 15 metre walk.

The Cats were doing well across the centre and Burns battled hard to get the ball to Littlejohn, whose long kick just got there.

Wojala as strong as a bull, forced his way through a pack close to goal and popped it there.

The Cats were matching the Maggies all over the ground, but Donoghue saved three times with great defence.

Three quarter scores: Southport 12-9-81, Broadbeach 6-10-46.

Cat fight back

In the final quarter, Stewart eluded several opponents and passed the ball to Ryan who marked and goaled to increase the Magpie lead.

The Cats attacked strongly, but Taylor, now returned to centre half back, marked to hold them out. The hard game was taking its toll on the players and a lot of the sting had gone.

Webb goaled from an acute angle and the Maggies seemed to have the game in their keeping.

Fleming, Summersides and Webber were finding something extra and after Dore missed from a strong mark, Webber cleverly played on and goaled with a long kick.

Roberts booted another from the pocket and the Cats were finishing strongly, but the Maggies appeared to have something in hand.

The Cats came again and with desperate play by Burns, Webber and Summersides they managed to get the ball to Dore in the pocket for a goal.

Broadbeach finished well, but the more accomplished Southport side had established too big a lead in the first half.

Best players: Z. Taylor (Southport), T. Donoghue (Southport), R. Summersides (Broadbeach).

Southport made clean sweep in grand finals

THREE Aussie Rules grand finals went Southport's way on Sunday to round off the most successful season of any Gold Coast football club.

The Southport Magpies dominated the local Rules scene this year and were untroubled in taking out the premiership flags in Senior, Reserve and Colts divisions at Salk Oval, Currumbin, at the weekend.

Nobody could begrudge the Southport club its triple triumph as both players and officials put in a 100 per cent effort this year to reach their goal.

The senior team had only been beaten once in its last 50 games ... and that was by a point by Palm Beach Currumbin early in the season. This record is unprecedented in Queensland Australian Football history and likely to remain that way.

Except for a couple of games, the Magpie big men steamrollered their opposition throughout the season and most of their wins were by huge margins. It was their second premiership in a row.

The Southport Reserves justly deserved their grand final win as they have been unbeaten this season. They also retained their premiership. The Colts had a slightly different story as they finished second on the premiership points ladder.

But they raced into grand final favouritism with a strong win three weeks ago over arch rivals, Broadbeach, the team they beat for the flag.

Turn to next page for reports on Reserve and Colts grand finals.

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