

Magpies preen feathers after 'body snatching' coup over top VFL club, Footscray

IN THE football scoop of the year the Southport Australian Rules Magpies have retained matchwinning centreman Zane Taylor when he was all set to sign with VFL club, Footscray.

Taylor, a former star with Footscray Colts, has been outstanding over the past two seasons with Southport but a couple of months ago he decided to accept an offer to return to Victoria.

Last weekend the Magpies committee held an 11th hour conference with Taylor and contracted him for the next three years.

No details of the terms are available but it is believed that Taylor's playing fee will be a Gold Coast Australian Rules record.

"I can't reveal how much we are paying Zane but he is worth every cent of it," Southport secretary Ken Smith said yesterday.

"Only bad luck will keep him out of the State side this year."

At 19 years of age, 6ft 1in, and around 12 stone 10lb, Taylor certainly

**KEPT
THEIR
YOUNG
STAR
ZANE
TAYLOR**

looks to have the ball at his feet.

His form at centre half back for the Magpies last year was little short of sensational and he is sure to come under close scrutiny from the Queensland selectors when the season gets under way.

And with Taylor back in the side the Magpies chances of taking out their third straight pre-

miership flag have improved enormously.

Several of last year's A graders have moved interstate including Queensland representative Lindsay Fawns and brilliant all-rounder Andy Stewart.

No certs

And old hands such as Barry Rusk and Davey Burns are no certainties to saddle up again.

With Zane Taylor also on the transfer list the other Clubs were rubbing their hands together, but now he has been signed on for the next three seasons the Magpies will start short-priced favourites for the flag once again.

The Magpies have also retained former VFL champion ruckman Bill Hill Ryan, who had indicated that he might retire.

Southport will start pre-season training at 9am on Sunday in Carey Park opposite the Pacific Hotel.

All players and supporters are invited to attend.



● CHAMPION centreman ZANE TAYLOR, who has signed a three year contract with Southport Australian Rules Club, shows his eye with this mark over the top against Leabrook. The Magpies snapped him up just as he was about to leave for Melbourne to play with VFL club, Footscray.

Gold Coast Bulletin: January 20 1977, p38

www.southportsharkshistory.com.au



Celebrating 50 years!

