

Clark bursts PBC bubble

KEN Clark put Southport into the Gold Coast Australian Rules grand final with a brilliant 10-goal effort in the preliminary final against Palm Beach Currumbin at Owen Park, Southport, on Sunday.

Southport's win burst PBC's growing confidence that they could snatch a grand final berth after they beat Southport on August 12.

Southport beat PBC 26-12 (168) to 14-19 (103). The Magpies will meet Coolangatta in the grand final at Salk Oval on Sunday.

Clark was the best player on the ground on Sunday. The PBC defence could not contain him.

His three goals in the first quarter kept Southport in the game as the Magpies struggled against the pacy PBC Lions.

Clark's speed about the half forward line and tremendously accurate kicking were a big part of Southport's success as they established their dominance in the second and third quarters.

The Lions looked sharp and eager as their small men, Frost, Farrelly, Cowell and Hermans dictated the terms early to sorely test the Southport defence.

The Magpies, despite a wind assistance, could make little headway against the bustling Lions whose tackling was swift and effective.

John Goody playing in defence and Leo McNamara turned the Magpies out several times and the Lions were playing well with good backing up and some nice handball to move forward.

Ken Clark flashed into the game with three nice goals for the Pies, but the Lions kept with them when the elusive Farrelly and Cowell each goaled.

An early goal to Dobson in the second quarter was valuable for the Lions, but the Magpies were combining better with Taylor strong in defence getting good support from Terry Baker.

Graham Hopkins and Bill Ryan, alternating in the ruck were palming the ball well and Sel Short was playing strongly at midfield.

The Magpies forward line was functioning with precision and goals by Devlin, Hinkley and Clark took them to a handy lead.

Hopkins clever play in the forward line was opening a path for the brilliant Clark and Hinkley and the Magpies turned on a burst of vintage football as the PBC defence appeared to falter.

Southport produced a sustained attack and poured on nine goals against the breeze for the term — Clark and Hinkley each booted three and the Pies had raced to a four goals advantage.

The Lions opened the third quarter in desperate fashion. Brendan Farrelly was like a terrier around the packs but Zane Taylor was in top form for the Pies and kept lobbing the ball deep into attack for his side.

Clark and Ryan increased the Magpies lead and they were playing with great confidence.

Phil Kettle was playing well at full back but the danger for the Lions was further afield where Clark and Hinkley were ripping the PBC defence to pieces.

Zane Taylor brought the crowd to their feet when he marked near the centre and rammed home a running goal.

A belated goal by Gavin Cowell brought immediate response from the Magpies when Wayne Morris and Clark added further goals for the Magpies to put them in an impregnable position.

The Lions had fallen in a heap since the half time break and the Magpies looked unbeatable.

John Goody, who had battled hard all day scored a couple of good goals in the final term, but there was no stopping the Magpies who had the game wrapped up and came home strongly.

Best players: Ken Clark (Southport) 3; Zane Taylor (Southport) 2; Brendan Farrelly (PBC) 1.

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