

Magpies topple leading Brisbane team

SOUTHPORT captain-coach, Bill Ryan believes the Magpies will win another Gold Coast Australian Football premiership this year.

He said this after his side's convincing win over Coorparoo in Brisbane's annual pre-season competition last Sunday.

Before they met Southport, Coorparoo were playing so well experts said they would win the pre-season contest.

Ryan was exuberant over the team's performance and said it was like a grand final victory.

Every player contributed for 100 minutes and the teamwork was brilliant, he said.

Ryan said fitness played a big part in the win, but made special mention of the backline and rovers who initiated many attacking moves.

New players

Roger Zerna, Tony Coelli and Ian Jeffries were new players who shone in defence and all should make the side for the first local premiership game on Sunday week.

Others who will join them include winger Greg Brown, Gavin McGwann, Tony Ambrose and a reserve grader from last year Bernie Deylin.

Ryan and half forward Ken Clarke played well, as did talented rover Digger Aptel.

The Magpies used 19 new players against Coorparoo and Ryan believed at least 12 would play in the opening game against Broadbeach.

Cats win

Broadbeach scored a comfortable win over Labrador before a big crowd at the new Merrimac Oval on Sunday.

Bustery conditions made it difficult for both sides, however some good football was seen, especially from Broadbeach who appear to be very fit.

Another rules premiership to Southport — Ryan

Captain-coach Bill Ryan said after the game the players were improving with every game and he expected a strong side to take the field against Southport.

Labrador were disappointing at the weekend but as one official explained, eight of last year's side were unavailable for the game against Broadbeach.

Missing were Peter and Gary Kinnaird, Kevin Hyland, John Green, Neil Haslem, Bill Cooke, Alan Peters and the Baker brothers John, Wayne and Greg.

There is half a good team in that group so supporters can look forward to a better showing against Palm Beach Currumbin in the opening premiership game.

Broadbeach will be strengthened in the next fortnight by the arrival of seven new players from interstate.

Early form

Several Broadbeach players have struck early forms. They include Ken Marriott (wing), Gary Lawton (half back), Larry Miles, a full-forward from Waverley, Stan Duncan, a rover from Victoria and Mathew Steele (ruck-rover) from Mayne.

Regulars Terry Young, Greg Roberts and Neil Torrens look set for a great season.

Labrador players who fired were Joey Saunders (defence), Philip Heath (fullback), Peter Marshall and Wayne Phillips who played with the Colts last year.

Ex-PBC player Mick Ballinger also did well. Nippy rover Paul Worrester left the ground in the first term on Sunday with a minor injury and he will play on Sunday.



The big men fly in a night trial game at Owen Park between Southport and Labrador.

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