

MAGPIES WON'T COP ROUGH STUFF

by GREG STOLZ

SOUTHPORT Magpies team manager Frank Atchison has warned his team will fight fire with fire if Coolangatta resort to rough stuff in Sunday's Australian Rules grand final, at Salk Oval, Currumbin.

"We've always been told not to retaliate, but this being a grand final, if Coolangatta resort to head high tackles and behind play sniping, we will be answering the challenge.

"Grand finals are a different matter — this is the one we've been playing for all year.

"Mike (Darcy, the Coolangatta coach) can work that one out for himself."

Atchison's warning comes in the wake of the ferocious confrontation between Southport and Coolangatta in the major semi-final a fortnight ago. That game, which

They'll fight fire with fire says Atchison

Coolangatta won narrowly to advance straight into the main event, was indicative of the intensity and often bitter rivalry between the two giants of Gold Coast Aussie Rules.

It was characterised by back play sniping from both sides, prompting claims by Pies coach Norm Darcy that the umpires were not protecting his players from Coolangatta's "fireworks".

However, Darcy was pleased with the protection his charges received from the whistle blowers when Southport won their way

into the grand final by defeating Surfers Paradise on Sunday.

Darcy has worked his team lightly this week in preparation for the big game.

A team dinner and get together was held on Wednesday night after training. The Pies will have their final run tonight.

Mobile rockmann cum forward Zane Separovich, who missed the preliminary final with an ankle injury, is almost certain to miss the grand final.

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