

knockout semi-final. The Demons won by one point.

Southport U17s score great grand final win

SOUTHPORT'S outstanding under 17 side threw down the gauntlet to the club's other grades by scoring a brilliant win over Mt Gravatt in their grand final in Brisbane on Saturday.

The Des Kennedy-coached youngsters thrashed Mt Gravatt 28-12 (180) to 6-6 (42) in a superb display of skill and teamwork.

The result avenged last year's grand final loss by the Sharks to Windsor-Zillmere.

It was one of the most lopsided grand finals in QAFL history and underlined what enormous potential the Sharks have at their disposal — if they nurture and encourage the youngsters properly.

Apart from the first 15 minutes, when Mt Gravatt moved the ball well, it was all one-way traffic to the Southport goals.

With Troy Artz dominating in the middle, Jason Grundy on fire when

ruck-roving or on the half-forward line, and centre half-forward Matthew Kennedy in control, the Sharks were too strong, too desperate, too keen and too talented for their opponents.

Others to shine were Garth Cross, Greg Harris and Marcus Ashcroft, although Kennedy said it was a whole-hearted team effort with hardly a passenger in the line-up.

Southport had mixed fortunes in the other grades.

Their colts made it through to the grand final after beating Windsor-Zillmere 12-18 (90) to 9-14 (68), but the reserve graders were programmed for a preliminary final appearance after going down to the Eagles 15-18 (108) to 14-13 (97).

Diminutive rover Robbie Jones was named best on ground for the Sharks' Colts, but coach Bob Greenwood was hesitant to individualise, preferring to praise the entire team for a gutsy effort.

Southport's reserves play traditional enemies Morningside in the preliminary final next Sunday.