

Sharks in a scoring frenzy

Reserves

TALENT-laden Southport ran roughshod over Redland to take a huge win from the AFLQ reserve grade grand final in Brisbane yesterday.

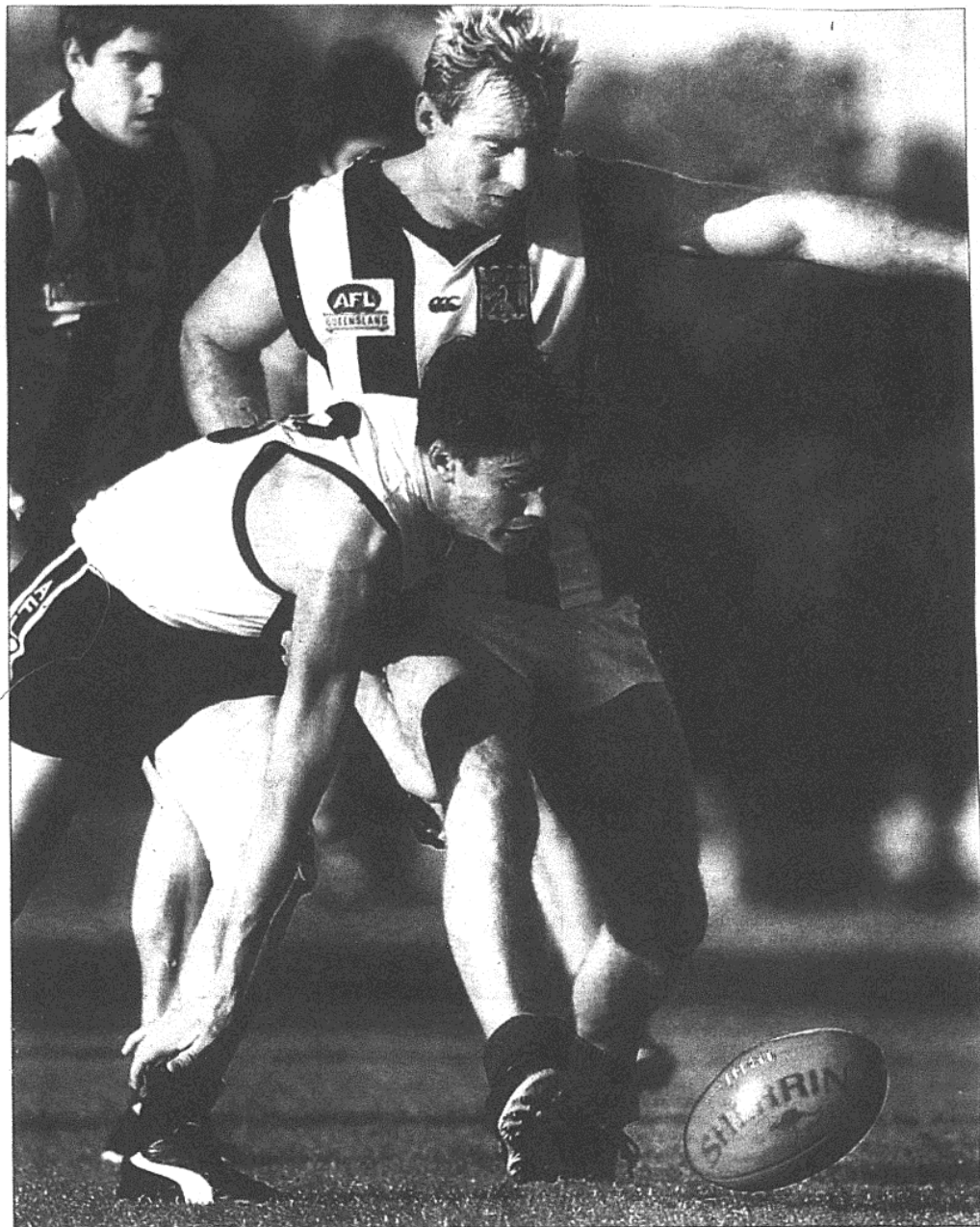
The Sharks development side won by 19-14 (128) to 7-10 (52) in a complete reversal of their second semi-final when Redland took the honours.

This time the Sharks absorbed some early heavy physical pressure before completely dominating the clash after half-time.

They booted 11-4 after the big break.

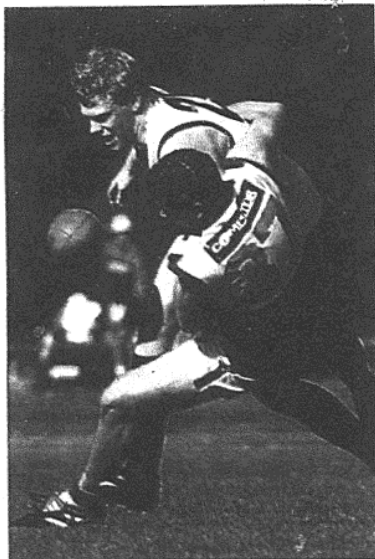
Key big man Jarrod Gornell was again a match-winner for the Sharks, with strong support from forward Andrew Lathorous and ex-Cairns teenager Bill English.

Right: Southport's Mathew Wollington looks to hit the ball away from the feet of Mount Gravatt's Mark Edwards yesterday



Pictures:
David
Clark

Below: Southport's Stephen McKeon loses the ball as he is wrapped up by Mount Gravatt's Jake Furfaro



Vultures' turn to be slaughterers

Terry Wilson
AFLQ

TWO seasons ago Mount Gravatt were a club in strife, almost booted out of the AFL Queensland competition, their social club broke and their very existence in doubt.

Yesterday, the Vultures completed a remarkable turnaround, powering to the club's first premiership since they joined the state league in 1994 in near-record circumstances over the AFLQ's heavyweights Southport.

In a complete team performance, Mt Gravatt took the grand final at Coorparoo in Brisbane by 20-11 (131) to 10-10 (70).

The 61-point margin equalled the previous worst beatings for Southport in a premiership decider. They lost by the same margin in 1991 and 1993.

Mt Gravatt also just missed by a point the honour of kicking the highest score against Southport in a grand final.

Morningside's 18-24 (132) in 1991 remains Southport's biggest

nightmare. Yesterday's thumping was sweet revenge for those at the club who were a part of the 1997 debacle when Southport slaughtered the Vultures by 94 points.

The roles were certainly reversed yesterday. Mt Gravatt clearly the most committed unit and with a distinct edge in pace around the ground.

Their back six, magnificent as coach Danny Craven described them, dominated.

The group comprised Sam Long, Jake Furfaro, Toby Grayson, Gareth Dosser, Brock Turton and Darian Misko.

Veteran Mark Edwards, one of two current-day Vultures who experienced the humiliation of 1997, was also superb.

But the best of them all was, ironically in a team that outsped their rivals, veteran Tony Lynn, hardly a Speedy Gonzales type.

For the 34-year-old, being named Joe Grant Medal winner for best on the ground it was the ideal way to wind up a career that has covered vast territory.

Lynn was a Brisbane Bears AFL player from Morningside in 1989, was dumped by them and ended up with Central District in Adelaide.

From there Lynn was drafted by Carlton where he stayed until he returned to Morningside in Brisbane and eventually over to Mt Gravatt in 1999.

His was an outstanding performance, especially in the third term where Mt Gravatt's stats sheet showed exactly why they won.

"We had 60 one-percenters and 40 tackles in all," said Craven.

"In one quarter of football that was just phenomenal."

Things went wrong early for Southport.

They lost centre half-forward Sean Coughlan with a broken collarbone in the first quarter, then had on-baller Craig McGough sent off after he was reported on separate striking charges.

Tireless ruckman David Round, who took out the Grogan Medal on Monday night, was a clear best player for the Sharks.