

SPITEFUL GAME TO COOLANGATTA

IN a game marred by spiteful incidents, the Southport Magpies took it right up to the Coolangatta Blues for three quarters on their own ground. But could not withstand the last quarter burst by Coolangatta which produced seven goals.

Earlier it was only the grand defence of Torr, and the spirited ruck work of Andrews, that kept the Blues in the game against the strong gusty wind.

Davey Burns was soon shifted onto the dashing Crockett, and this allowed Gillet to roam as Southport continued to attack.

Young Maggie star Jones came off early with a suspected broken nose, after much undue attention.

It was an even quarter with Southport having most of the play due to the wind advantage, but they kicked badly.

Spite

Quite an amount of spite was creeping into the game, and it was obvious both teams could not handle the windy conditions as spilled marks and bad kicking was the order of the day.

It took the Blues well into the second term before starting to play their true systematic football.

Crockett and then Johnson, were driving the Blues forward as Southport continued to play the short game and overdo their hand passing.

Sarah popped in for two great goals, but the driving force was captain-coach Chris Curcio.

Arnold and Sutherland were having an interesting duel on the wing, with the honours going to the courageous "Blue". Kelly put heart back into the magpie camp, when he booted an almost impossible one through, running away from goal.

The rucks were even between Johnson and Andrews, but it was the big Coolangatta player, who was doing all the damage around the ground with timely marks and well placed hand ball.

The three quarter was full of spite, and to this stage no reports. It was no place for softies as player after player hit the deck, and they did not get up as fast as they went down.

The game deteriorated in skill but was still delighting the big crowd with its rugged clashes.

Gillet came into the play and brought the Magpies closer but it was the ever reliable Crockett and Hayes, who kept the Blues in front.

The game now had more moves than the World Chess Championship as both

By
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coaches strived for a much needed break. Rogers was leaving the young Coolangatta full forward Hayes unattended and this proved costly for the Magpies.

The last quarter commenced with the Blues holding a commanding 19 points lead.

They should have been further ahead but they had failed to capitalise on the Maggie's overcrowding of handball and crazy short passing.

I am convinced now, that we are breeding a race of one-eyed, big mouthed umpire haters, as spectators and club officials, who seem to know more about the game than players and umpires put together, continued to abuse those men putting on the show.

I tell you, there was more

interest among the crazed crowd, than on the ground, as the Blues forged ahead, and in my book became outright favourites for the flag.

The worst scene ever witnessed on the Coast erupted like vesuvius, but twice as dangerous, in the last quarter when a player nonchalantly walked over and biffed a spectator, and it was on again. Spectators, players, clubmen, umpires, the lot, converged in an ugly scene on the boundary line. Following this incident two players were reported.

All in all, a good performance by the Blues, and their positive play to full-forward Hayes, and the dominance of Crockett back as a rover, makes them ideal grand final material.

On the other hand Southport who were missing Stillman and Best fought out the game in true Maggie style, but I feel they overdid

their handball, and failed up forward, where they lacked a true goal kicker.

Umpire Cavanagh generally umpired reasonably well, but lost control during the heated moments of play, and some of his decisions were a bit bewildering.

Coolangatta 18-18 (126) defeated Southport 11-7 (73).

Best players: Coolangatta: M. Kulken, N. Torr, R. Crockett, R. Andrews, G. Arnold, P. Hayes; Southport: P. Johnson, I. Rapkins, D. Burns, R. Gillet, G. Cullen, M. Collins.

Goal kickers: Coolangatta: P. Hayes 7, K. Newton 3, R. Crockett 3, D. Quinn 2, P. Sarah 2, L. Chapman 1; Southport: R. Gillet 2, H. Sutherland 2, G. Cullen, G. Jones, P. Johnson, M. Kelly, D. Burns, I. Rapkins, P. Sapwell 1 each.

Ralph Tobiano Award Voting: M. Kulken (C) 3, N. Torr (C) 2, P. Johnson (S) 1.

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