

## Veterans of the game to bow out in same match

- Brent O'Neill, South-West News
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Souths Sharks AFL veterans Alex 'Big Al' McCrae (59) (left) and Lynden 'Burger' Burgess (60) just moments before they take to the field to play their final match for the club. Picture: Watson Bill

Source: Quest Newspapers

**A 19-year partnership forged over blood, sweat and tears will finally come to an end this weekend.**

Alex McCrae and Lynden Burgess will step out for Souths Sharks for the final time on Sunday.

Stalwarts of the Sharks' masters team since 1986 and 1993 respectively, the pair will hang up the boots following Sunday's final against Wilston Grange at Zillmere.

While McCrae, 59, said the combination of an ageing body and the chance to bow out after his 25th-straight national carnival in October were the determining factors, 60-year-old Burgess plans to move to Malaysia next year.

But they agreed there would be a sense of sadness when they represent the Chelmer club for the final time.

"It probably won't hit me until the season starts next year," McCrae, who was inducted into the AFL Masters Hall of Fame in 2006, said.

"(Burgess and I) have been together for a lot of years so I thought going out with him was the right thing to do. We have a great understanding."

Burgess said he and his fellow ruckman were fortunate to have shared some special memories.

"I have had some really good years. I have been to quite a few national carnivals with Queensland and there have been some good ones.

"It's the camaraderie (that I'll miss). It's hard to give it away but it's got to come to an end at some stage."

The game will begin at O'Callaghan Park at 9.30am.