



Hazel dreams of a new goal

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT: Netballer Jess Hazel will be playing her 100th game this weekend for the Jaguars.

Picture: SIMON CROSS

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JAGUARS goaler Jess Hazel has had a brief taste of life with the Adelaide Thunderbirds.

Five seasons back, as a 16-year old, she was a member of the Thunderbirds squad for the penultimate year of the now defunct national league.

Despite spending the season on the bench for all but two minutes of the match against the Australian Institute of Sport, Hazel reflects on her stint with the Thunderbirds as a tremendous learning experience. It was only a short stint but it has fueled her desire to dedicate herself to taking her game to those higher levels.

"I would like to get higher and I'd love another chance with the Thunderbirds," Hazel said. "I'll just keep playing the best I can and always put myself out there.

"I feel I have a lot to improve on and I'm not near my peak. I need to work on my general game play, have consistently good games and pick up the intensity. "From state league to the ANZ Championship is a huge step."

Hazel is just 21 but on Friday night she will make her 100th Subway Cup appearance when Jaguars take on Matrics at E.T.S.A. Park.

The ride to the milestone has been interesting, having played her junior netball with Matrics before making her league debut at 15 with Garville. After a year with the club she switched to Woods Panthers for two years before making a home at Jaguars for the past three seasons.

"I'm very happy at Jaguars and I enjoy the girls there," Hazel said. "To play 100 games is a huge achievement for me. I know a lot

of girls over the years have made that milestone but I'm very happy.

"Hopefully there are more to come. Playing that year with the Thunderbirds was a highlight. I played in all the state age groups and last year was named in the Subway Cup team of the year at goal attack which was an honour.

"I also played in the Australian National League last year and that was a brilliant experience. The games were always tough and it was good to get to know the girls."

Jaguars slipped out of the top four on the ladder after losing to undefeated Contax last week and it faces a testing challenge against second-placed Matrics.

"In our first hit-out against them this season we put up a good 55 minutes and the final five minutes let us down," Hazel said.