

Red-hot start by Warriors

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West Coast Warriors will head into Friday night's WA Netball League clash with the Western Roar confident, but cautious, according to coach Lorraine Ward.

The Warriors got their season off to a red-hot start with a dominant 77-42 win over Curtin Hamersley Comets at the Gold Netball Centre on Friday night.

Star shooter and reigning Jill McIntosh medallist Donnell Wallam began 2020 in style, scoring 69 goals from 71 attempts and did not miss any of her 41 shots

in the first half as the Warriors took a 44-23 lead into the main break.

The game was over as the reigning premiers dominated the third quarter, holding the Comets to seven goals.

Despite last year's wooden spooners lifting in the final term, they were unable to win the quarter despite the Warriors clearing their bench.

Ward said there was still work to be done by her team despite the imposing victory.

"It was just one game and we still have to work on our match fitness," Ward said.

"That (fitness) ebbed and flowed a bit during the game, but we set ourselves up in the first quarter.

"They are all gelling really well together, they work hard for each other. As much of a superstar as Donnell is, our defence and mid-court work really hard to give her those 71 attempts."

The Western Roar also began their season in fine fashion with a 70-41 win over Southside Demons later in the night.

Newcomers Peel Lightning could not get on the board in their first game, with East Fremantle leaving Mandurah with a

63-47 victory, while the Southwest Jets lost to Rangers 68-50 in Eaton on Saturday night.

Reigning Australian netballer of the year Gretel Bueta, nee Tippett, is set to miss the entire 2020 season after announcing her pregnancy.

The news caps a remarkable 12 months for the Diamonds and Queensland Firebirds goal attack, who claimed the

Liz Ellis Diamond award in November after a stellar 2019 season.

Bueta, pictured, married husband Niko in March and they are preparing for the arrival of their first child in January.

Firebirds coach Roselee Jencke hopes to have Bueta as an assistant.

