

# More to come from Wallam

MITCHELL WOODCOCK

West Coast Warriors coach Lorraine Ward has warned the WA Netball League that star goal shooter Donnell Wallam will be even better than last year.

Ward plucked the shooter from obscurity before Wallam took the State's premier competition by storm, going from the Waroona Demons in the Peel Football-Netball League to winning the prestigious Jill McIntosh Medal as the WANL's fairest and best.

The 26-year-old led the Warriors to the 2019 title, scoring 777 goals.

She was also named in the team of the year and was awarded the grand final MVP after scoring 67 goals from 77 attempts in their 74-65 win over the Western Roar.

The WANL begins next weekend, with the 2020 competition extended to eight teams thanks to the introduction of Peel Lightning.

The Warriors begin their defence against the Curtin Hamersley Comets on Friday night at the Gold Netball Centre.

Ward said Wallam was set to again dominate the league as she chased a shot at a Super Netball contract.

"I think she'll have another huge year. I don't think there's any defenders out there that can beat her," Ward said.

"Her age might be a factor because she's 26, but the talent is there. She's just amazing.

"It's a shame because she made the Australian Netball League team (Western Sting)



**Western Warriors captain Helen Taylor, left, with Western Roar counterpart Tess Gee-Cransberg before last year's grand final.** Picture: Ian Munro

this year and they didn't get to play.

"That would've been another stepping stone for her."

Ward said the Warriors had kept the core of their premier-ship-winning team together. They lost only one game in 2019.

"We are looking pretty good I think, but we'll see how we go

when we take the court," she said.

"No big changes for us, really. There has been a lot of player movement in the other teams so that'll be our challenge, to see what we come up against.

"We lost our wing attack Meara Girvan, who had to go back to South Australia, but we

have picked up another gun wing attack from there, Stacey Hein."

The Comets, who finished bottom of the ladder last year after not winning any of their 12 games, have added former Jill McIntosh medallist and Fremantle AFLW defender Lindal Rohde as they look to climb the

ladder this season. Peel will be led by mid-court star Rebecca Nitschke in their inaugural season after Nitschke crossed from East Fremantle in the off-season.

The 2020 season will be run over 15 weeks, with two double-header weekends and a three-week finals series.