



# Venter on a quest to be even better

When the Jaguars netball team that will defend their title in the Brutal Fruit-series gets announced this week, Ine-Mari Venter's name will with good reason be one of the first called out.

The lanky goal shooter got her chance at long last to play for the Proteas during the recent Commonwealth Games and did not disappoint.

The local star from Tuks was one of the standout players in Australia, ending the tournament with an average goal percentage of 88.3%.

She has returned as a more confident player knowing she is good enough to hold her own against the world's best.

However, Venter is a realist.

Proteas head coach Norma Plummer is a hard but fair taskmaster so there are no guarantees ever that she or any other player will automatically be selected to play for South Africa.

It is a case of never resting on one's laurels when being part of the Proteas squad.

"Getting to play during the Commonwealth Game was a good experience.

"It was also sort of a reality check.

I know there are certain aspects of my game that I actively need to work on," said Venter this week.

"I am going to try and experiment with a few things during the Brutal Fruit series to see how I can improve."

One of these was to be more confident playing as goal attack.

During the Games, she had to, and she admitted feeling that she was not at her best.

She had been part of the Protea-team for the whole of last year but did not get to play one game.

When she had to make her international debut against Jamaica during the Commonwealth Games in what was a must-win game.

Was she not thrown to the wolves?

"I will be honest I was quite nervous when I went on to the court to play. I did not want to let the team down, but when my first attempt at goal was successful, I started to relax. Goal shooting is all about confidence," she said.

Venter said the head coach had a plan with everything she does. One of the things Plummer always kept emphasising was that she never wanted

to set up any player to fail.

"Norma did speak to me after last year's Fiji-series and told me I did not get to play because she felt at the time I was not consistent enough as a goal shooter," Venter said.

"It was the right decision as I know now I was not ready."



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Ine-Mari Venter in action for Tuks. Photos: Reg Caldecott

