

Skipper lays building blocks on and off field

A-LEAGUE

BY JAMES GARDINER

NIGEL Boogaard is confident the Jets are laying the building blocks for a successful campaign – even if the ladder doesn't show it just yet.

The Jets are winless after four rounds and sit in ninth place on two points after four rounds.

However, they are only a win outside the top six and four points behind fourth-placed Melbourne City.

They have conceded five goals, including an own goal, but have only scored two.

"As a team, we are defending well," Boogaard said. "Teams haven't dominated possession or territory, but a couple of sloppy goals have made it hard to come back into games."

And at the other end.

"We are getting there," he said. "The fact that we are creating chances – we are getting into goal-scoring opportunities – and it will only take the boys to get on the board and I feel like we can go on a run and really get on the front foot. There are some good signs and everyone is positive that a whole-team performance is just around the corner."

Boogaard signed a contract extension with the Jets last month that will keep him at the club until the end of next season. The determined defender won't be satisfied until he helps deliver a championship to his home town.

The Jets went agonisingly close to a title last season, going down 1-0 in controversial circumstances to Melbourne Victory in the grand final.

The 32-year-old hasn't ruled out playing beyond 2019-20 but is also preparing



ON THE JOB: Jets captain Nigel Boogaard and 35 Latitude Property Development director Brett Brookfield. Boogaard has joined the Hunter-based firm.

for life after football.

Boogaard has joined Hunter-based business 35 Latitude Property Development in a part-time role.

"I am not ready to hang up the boots yet, but I understand that I am probably closer to the end of my career than the start," he said. "I still enjoy training and being able to contribute. The day I can't offer that much on the park, I will call it. I feel like there is still a fair bit to offer."

Boogaard studied residential drafting and building construction when playing for Adelaide United and is keen to expand on his experience.

"It's really rewarding being involved and seeing something evolve from a concept on a piece of paper, through construction to an end product being enjoyed by the community," he said. "I have been liaising with site managers and understanding

where we are at in terms of building schedules and then reporting back and keeping investors up to date. That is the enjoyment side of it for me. The hands on stuff, talking to the trades and getting an understanding of that side of the business. The other side is trying to bring some investors into the company."

Boogaard is doing the equivalent of day's work spread over the week.

"They understand

that football comes first," Boogaard said.

Company director Brett Brookfield said Boogaard had a "passion" for property and they were looking forward to him "forging a long term career with our company".

Jets chief executive Lawrie Mckinna and coach Ernie Merrick are supportive of Boogaard and encourage all players to pursue interests outside of football.

Petratos to miss Lebanon friendly

SOCCEEROOS

NEWCASTLE Jets' star Dimi Petratos will have to force his way into the Socceroos squad for the Asian Cup from the A-League after being overlooked for a friendly against Lebanon on Tuesday night.

Petratos has been in camp with the Socceroos for the past week.

He was a train-on squad member for the 1-all draw with South Korea on Saturday night and was expected to be included in the match-day 23 for the game in Sydney on Tuesday, which doubles as Tim Cahill's farewell.

Fellow train-on players Sydney FC fullback Rhyan Grant and Adelaide United winger Craig Goodwin were promoted to the 23 but Petratos and Thomas Deng were left out by coach Graham Arnold.

"There is a short turnaround to Tuesday's match against Lebanon so Tom [Rogic] and Robbie [Kruse], who both performed well on Saturday evening but have minor knee and groin injuries respectively, won't be risked," Arnold said.

"Thomas and Dimitri both did well in training in Brisbane but they won't be part of the Lebanon fixture.

"With limited matches and training days with the team leading up to next year's AFC Asian Cup it is important that we provide as many players as possible with the chance to integrate into our style and system, and Tuesday's match against Lebanon gives us a great chance to do that."

The clash against Lebanon is the Socceroos' last before a squad for their Asian Cup defence in Qatar in January is selected.

— JAMES GARDINER

Stunning strike launches Jets' season

FROM BACK PAGE

"I was a bit shocked and then just happy we were up 1-0."

After being used mostly off the bench last season for the Jets, Vine has started both matches for Newcastle this campaign and is determined to keep her spot with more scoring form.

"I started a couple right at the start of last season then I ended up being a substitute," she said. "I didn't mind that but this year I came into Jets hoping to get that starting spot. Hopefully I can keep on scoring and keep on starting."

It was Stengel, Newcastle's leading scorer last season, who also set up Vine's goal against Victory.

"I owe her two," Vine said. "I really like playing with her and find her so easy to play with. She just slips the ball through and she has the best feet. I just make the run. I feel like whatever situation she is in she will just slip it through like she did for the first goal."

It was an important three points for the Jets, who had the no-points bye in round one and took the field against Canberra in round three

without injured key trio Emily van Egmond (knee), Tara Andrews (ankle) and Larissa Crummer (thigh).

Newcastle coach Craig Deans gave rookie Teigan Collister her starting debut.

"For the young girls that came in and the squad players that haven't played a lot, to come in and do what they did today, I'm pretty proud of what they did," Deans said post-match on Saturday night.

"Teigan is just a young kid that never played at this level before. To lose Emily and Tara Andrews with 10 years

of playing at this level and throw a young kid like Teigan in there and ask her to try to do something that fills a gap that those guys leave is a big ask. But I think her work-rate and her energy was excellent right up until she came off."

Deans said Vine "has got a huge amount of talent" and a place in the starting side was "her spot to lose".

"The goal she scored against Victory was something as a team we've been working on, her making runs," he said.

"Katie Stengel, when she gets on the ball is very diffi-

cult to get it off her, so we've worked a little bit with Cortnee making good runs when Katie gets the ball.

"Last week's goal we'd worked on. Cortnee could hit that shot [tonight] another 500 times and they'll end up in the stand. I'm happy for her though because she is a good kid ... this is probably the first year she's been a starter in a W-League team so I'm happy for her but I think this needs to be something she builds on, not be satisfied with.

"If she keeps working hard and if she keeps scoring goals

then she stays in the team."

Newcastle had the better of the chances in the first half on Saturday night before Vine broke the deadlock.

The hosts continued to dominate after the break but Canberra applied plenty of pressure in the final stages with goalkeeper Britt Eckersstrom forced to pull off some late saves before Ellie Carpenter's last-gasp attempt for the visitors glanced just wide of the post.

The Jets play Western Sydney away on November 24 then Brisbane at No.2 Sports-ground on November 29.