

Jenna's attitude brings reward

VAL MIGLIACCIO

JENNA McCormick says winning the Lady Reds' player of the year award was a shock.

The 19-year-old Mt Gambier-born stopper was rewarded for her aggression and never-say-die attitude, a trait McCormick learned while playing Australian football and soccer with boys back home.

"I'm still in shock when you see the high calibre of players we have in our team," McCormick said.

"When you see we have Melissa Barbieri and Kristy Moore, to win it over them is unheard of. I'd never imagine that I'd win it - I'm honoured and proud."

Goalkeeper Barbieri won the Lady Reds players' player of the year award.

McCormick played every minute of the every game for the Lady Reds' record-breaking season in which the side finished sixth with 13 points.

McCormick started playing at the Blue Lake Soccer Club when she was about seven before taking on cricket and Australian football.

She played soccer with girls on Saturday and boys on Sunday until her mid-teens.

McCormick then became a boarder at Walford Anglican School for Girls in 2011 after long-distance travel had forced her to skip SA soccer's national training centre programs, which are based in Adelaide.

McCormick represented SA in Australian football at the under-18 girls national championships in 2011 and 2012 and was invited to the AFL women's high-performance academy.

She is keen to play some footy between soccer games for her SAWSA club Adelaide Uni this local domestic season.

McCormick will this year study in criminology at Flinders University.



WELL EARNED: Lady Reds player of the year Jenna McCormick celebrates at Coopers Stadium with her trophy.

Picture: TRICIA WATKINSON