

Rangers take on Rangers

By ALAN APTED

Captain Laztoisa Leaso will be playing against her Papatoetoe Rangers 2 teammates when she turns out for Papatoetoe Rangers 1 for the start of Counties Manukau Regional Netball League's championship round at the Manurewa Netball Centre on Friday night.

The teenager has been elevated to the club's premier side after regular goalkeeper Marineta Lemalu injured her knee in a recent match against Aztec Premiers and is out for the

rest of the season. It's a cruel blow for Rangers 2 who beat Bombay 54-44 on Monday night for the right to play in the championship round.

The teams were level 13-13 after the first quarter.

It was one-way traffic after that as Papatoetoe jumped to a 29-23 lead in the second quarter and never looked threatened.

Coach Vicki Morgan says Leaso has been in outstanding form and her presence and leadership will be missed.

Morgan and her charges are

nevertheless thrilled with the progress they've made after starting the season ranked ninth.

"The girls are all really proud of their achievements as I am," Morgan says.

"We know that times are going to get a lot tougher and there is going to be still a very huge difference between ourselves and the top three teams.

"However, I'd rather be up in that level playing harder games and developing as players and a team," she says.

RESULTS

Division 1: Aztec 1 38 Papatoetoe Rangers 1 38; Mellons Bay 61 Timbertown Shelley Park 36; H&W United 51 Bombay 32.

Standings: Papatoetoe Rangers 1 18, Aztec Premier 1 18, Mellons Bay 12, Shelley Park 8, H&W United 5, Bombay 0.

Division 2: Papatoetoe Rangers 2 69 Pumaz 2 32; Aztec 2 52 Pumaz 1 39; Tuakau 60 Manurewa Rugby 57.

Standings: Papatoetoe Rangers 20, Manurewa Rugby 13, Tuakau 9, Pumaz 1 9, Aztec Premier 2 8, Pumaz 2 4.

Promotion/relegation:

Papatoetoe Rangers 2 54 Bombay 44.

Draw: Papatoetoe Rangers 1 v Papatoetoe Rangers 2 (D1) 6.30pm; Bombay v Pumaz 2 (D2) 8pm at Manurewa Netball Centre.

Mellons Bay 1 v H&W United (D1) 6.30pm; Pumaz 1 v Aztec Premiers 2 (D2) 8pm at Otara Recreation Centre.

Aztec Premiers 1 v Timbertown Shelley Park (D1) 6.30pm; Manurewa Rugby v Tuakau (D2) 8pm at Rosehill College.