

Strike 1, Strike 2, Strike 3



Gina

Four years ago Gina Weber had not touched a softball. Now she is the pitcher for the New Zealand women's representative softball team.

Tu Tangata spoke to Gina, a postie, (and her two sisters who are also national representatives) during the national women's club tournament which was held at Clareville, near Masterton, in March.

She said her Dad, Martin, taught her to pitch in the back-yard of their Wellington home.

"It was hard work. He used to teach me every night," she said.

Now she doesn't practice outside games and practises at club, provincial and national levels — unless there is something she is working on.

While natural ability has pushed Gina to the top of New Zealand softball, she says she has not mastered the technique of the specialist position.

"I still have got lots to learn about

pitching — there's still more things I have got to know about it."

Gina followed her two sisters into softball. Carol Moore, her older sister, started playing morning softball with her Mum, Lena.

When she was 13-years-old the Island Bay club formed a senior A women's team and asked Carol to play.

"Then softball wasn't as good as it is today. If you could throw and catch a ball you made the team," she said.

Carol, who is married with two children, represented New Zealand in 1979 and in 1982, when the team won the world series in Taiwan. She is catcher with Island Bay club and plays first base for New Zealand.

Hillary, who is in the sixth form at Wellington East High School, started playing senior A softball when she was 14-years-old. Then she injured her leg during a "friendly" softball game at gala day and was out for about two



years.

After coming back to the sport, she made the New Zealand under 19 team that went to Australia in January. She plays third base.

The three attribute their success to assistance from family and friends, hard work and luck.

Carol: "We're very competitive. We like to win."

Hillary: "We have trained hard and we want to win."

Carol: "If we lose a game fair-and-square we can take it. But if we lose on errors, well.... The enjoyment we get out of it is winning."

The pressures increased considerably at national level.

Carol: "It's very different. You are not only competing with the opposition but you are competing with your teammates for positions. If you make an error on a crucial play you are out."

The New Zealand team trainings