

# Loveday wins player of the year despite injury

By ALAN APTED

One of Counties Manukau's most promising young netballers is the Papakura Netball Centre's player of the year.

Seventeen-year-old midcourt specialist Nadia Loveday collected her award at the centre's annual prize-giving dinner last Saturday.

It was the culmination of a hugely successful season for the Manurewa teenager who finished the season on crutches after snapping her anterior cruciate ligament.

She played for the New Zealand Secondary School team at the Transtasman Netball Championship where she was selected in the tournament team.

Loveday has also been invited to apply for a place in the New Zealand Emerging Players squad.

The win also goes a long way towards easing the disappointment of having to watch her under-17 teammates finish the national championships as runners-up in the best result achieved by a Counties Manukau team.

Loveday was the team's captain but her injury, which has since been operated on, forced her to the sidelines.

Loveday says she is honoured by the player of the year award.

"I was surprised because I didn't think I'd done enough after missing so much of the season with injury," she says.

"I'm really humbled by it." Loveday confesses to shedding tears when the injury forced her out of the tournament.

"It was very, very hard. I didn't know the injury was that serious and that it would keep me out of the tournament.

"I knew we had a great team going into tournament and it was so disappointing I couldn't be part of it."

Loveday says the operation was a success. She starts seeing a physiotherapist soon and she is expecting to start running again in December.

Winnie Hauraki was named coach of the year. Hauraki is the coach of the Aztec Premiers 1 and the Counties Manukau team for the Lion Foundation Netball Championships that will be starting on September 4.



The best: Nadia Loveday is the Papakura Netball Centre's player of the year.

## Concern over Bennett's match fitness

By ALAN APTED

Aztec Premier 1 are sweating on the availability of their Counties Manukau representative Marcia Bennett for the regional netball final against Papatoetoe Rangers 1 at Strathallan College in Karaka on Sunday.

Bennett injured her knee during the 50-43 loss to Rangers in the final round of the league at the Otara Recreation Centre last Friday.

Manager Briar Martindale says it's a waiting game as to whether Bennett will be able to play in the final.

"It's a recurrence of an old injury and we don't know how serious it is at this stage," Martindale says.

"She's an influential member of the team and not having her available for the final will be disappointing."

Martindale is confident Aztec can reverse the result and dethrone

the champions in the final on Sunday.

"They only got away from us in the third quarter," she says of last Friday's encounter.

"The match was pretty even up until then.

"An injury forced us to change our line-up in that third quarter.

"They didn't gel quick enough and Papatoetoe took advantage of it."

It was Aztec Premiers' first loss of the season. Their only previous encounter ended in a 38-all draw.

Mellons Bay and Papatoetoe Rangers 2 will play for third and fourth positions.

The three top teams from premier division will join the three top clubs from Auckland-Waitakere, North and Waikato in the Super 12 tournament in March next year.

Bombay and Manurewa Rugby will contest the division two final at Strathallan College on Sunday at 11am.

### ► SCORES & DRAWS

#### RESULTS

##### DIVISION 1:

Papatoetoe Rangers 1 50 Aztec Premier 1 43, Papatoetoe Rangers 2 76 H & W United 41, Mellons Bay 58 Shelly Park 43.

##### DIVISION 2:

Pumaz 2 46 Aztec 2 43, Manurewa Rugby 49 Bombay 44, Pumaz 1 55 Tuakau 38.

#### FINAL STANDINGS

##### DIVISION 1:

Papatoetoe Rangers 1 20, Aztec Premiers 16, Mellons Bay 12, Papatoetoe Rangers 2 9, Shelly Park 5, H&W United 1.

##### DIVISION 2:

Bombay 17, Manurewa Rugby 16, Pumaz 1 12, Tuakau 8, Pumaz 2 8, Aztec Premiers 2 1.

#### FINALS DRAW

##### AUGUST 27:

Pumaz 2 v Aztec Premier 2 (D2 5th/6th) 9.30am; Shelly Park v H&W United (D1 5th/6th) 11am; Pumaz 1 v Tuakau (D2 3rd/4th) 12.30pm.

##### AUGUST 28:

Mellons Bay v Papatoetoe Rangers 2 (D1 3rd/4th) 9.30am; Bombay v Manurewa Rugby (Division 2 final) 11am, Papatoetoe Rangers v Aztec Premiers 1 (Division 1 final) 12.30pm.

### AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

**Player of the year:** Nadia Loveday  
**Coach of the year:** Winnie Hauraki  
**Highest NZ scoring umpire:** Kathryn Todd  
**Most consistent junior umpire:** Katherine Biggelaar  
**Most consistent senior umpire:** Maria Clay  
**Most improved junior umpire:** Jo Yarwood and Melanie John

**Most improved senior umpire:** Shaz Papesch  
**Umpire of the year:** Allison Crann  
**Rookie umpire of the year:** Cullen Edwards  
**The Marie Goodwin Trophy:** Bernie Loomans  
**Papakura Netball Centre top player:** Elise Kerr  
**Most promising young player:** Jade Flyger

**President's Cup:** Vesta Gribben  
**Volunteer of the year:** Tania Tonga  
**Best banner:** Opaheke School  
**Best dressed junior team:** Reremoana School Netball Club  
**Best dressed senior team:** Karaka Netball Club  
**Best dressed club:** The Gardens Netball Club