

# Round two 'no stroll'

By ALAN APTE

Counties Manukau are in no doubt about the challenge Western pose in round two of the Lion Foundation Netball Championship in Manawatu on Saturday.

Coach Winnie Hauraki is expecting nothing like the 43-31 stroll they had to beat Tasman in their championship opener on Sunday. She says Western are bent on winning their way into division one of the championship. And with franchise players Erika Burgess, Amber Bellringer and Alana Cassidy in their line-up they're going to be tough to beat.

Hauraki says Western's 60-59 defeat of Waikato in Hamilton on Sunday demonstrates the size of the challenge.

"We know how hard-out the old Waikato team is and knowing a bit about the team from Western and their players with franchise experience, it's going to be really tough, especially for some of our girls coming back into this level of netball again," Hauraki says.

"They got a taste of it on Sunday as to just how fast this game is compared to what we've been doing at club.

"It will be about performing under pressure.

"It's a huge, huge challenge."

Hauraki is pleased with the win against Tasman and patted her defensive players on the back for restricting them to just 31 goals.

Counties Manukau scored the first six goals with strong, straight court play while Adler and Tipelu hunted well in defence. Shooters Steffany and Timoko didn't miss a shot and Tasman looked shell-shocked.

Tasman managed to score a goal from their own centre pass but it didn't stop the onslaught as Counties Manukau



**Hunting:** Jean Waaka started at wing attack for Counties Manukau in the Lion Foundation Netball Championship match against Tasman in Karaka last Sunday.

put pedal to the metal and scored from the next five centre passes.

Counties Manukau took the quarter 14-4 and kept their eight goal lead until the end despite Timoko falling

off in accuracy.

Steffany was the best of the Counties Manukau shooters hitting 14 of her 17 attempts. Merilyn Nordin hit seven from 10, Caitlin Riedstra 11 from 16 and Timoko

11 from 19.

■ The starting line-up was Riedstra (g/s), Merilyn Nordin (g/a), Jean Waaka (w/a), Kirsten Hurley (c), Tipelu (w/d) Adler (g/d and captain) and Toni Rinckes (goal attack).