

# Valuable lessons learned

By ALAN APTED

The Counties Manukau netball team might be winless in the Lois Muir Challenge but they continue to impress coach Adrian Morrin with their eagerness to learn.

Her team is largely a developmental one and were always going to struggle against ex-franchise players and teams that are shadow national provincial sides.

But it's the exposure that players like Nadir Loveday and Elizabeth Ene are getting in the Lois Muir that the minders of Counties Manukau netball are after.

The lessons the two have picked up playing against some of the best players will stand them in good stead at the New Zealand Secondary Sch-

ool trials in Auckland this weekend.

Loveday, a midcourter for Morrin's Papatoetoe Rangers, was named in the tournament team after the recent national under-17 championships in Papakura, while Ene, a defender for Mellons Bay, was named in the trial squad.

They will miss Counties Manukau's final three games in the Lois Muir against Southland and Canterbury on Saturday and Cook Strait on Sunday at the AUT's Northcote campus.

And they'll also miss their clubs' Super12 matches when the Rangers take on Auckland-Waitakere's top side Mt Albert Grammar and Mellons Bay face Commodores in the curtainraiser at the



**Trialist:** Counties Manukau and Papatoetoe Rangers midcourter Nadia Loveday will miss this weekend's Super12.

Otara Leisure Centre on Friday night.

Counties Manukau lost 61-51 to pacesetters

Auckland-Waitakere and 44-38 to North in Otara last Sunday.

"Despite the losses, this team has gone from strength to strength since the opening rounds," Morrin says.

"I continue to be impressed with the players ability to bring the hard work that they have done at trainings into the games.

"The focus will be to keep our structure and composure under pressure."

All three Counties Manukau Super12 teams were beaten last Friday.

Rangers lost 57-39 to College Rifles, Mellons Bay went down 61-36 to Shore Rovers and Aztec were dismantled 64-39 by Mt Albert Grammar.

Aztec are away to Verdettes in Hamilton this Friday.