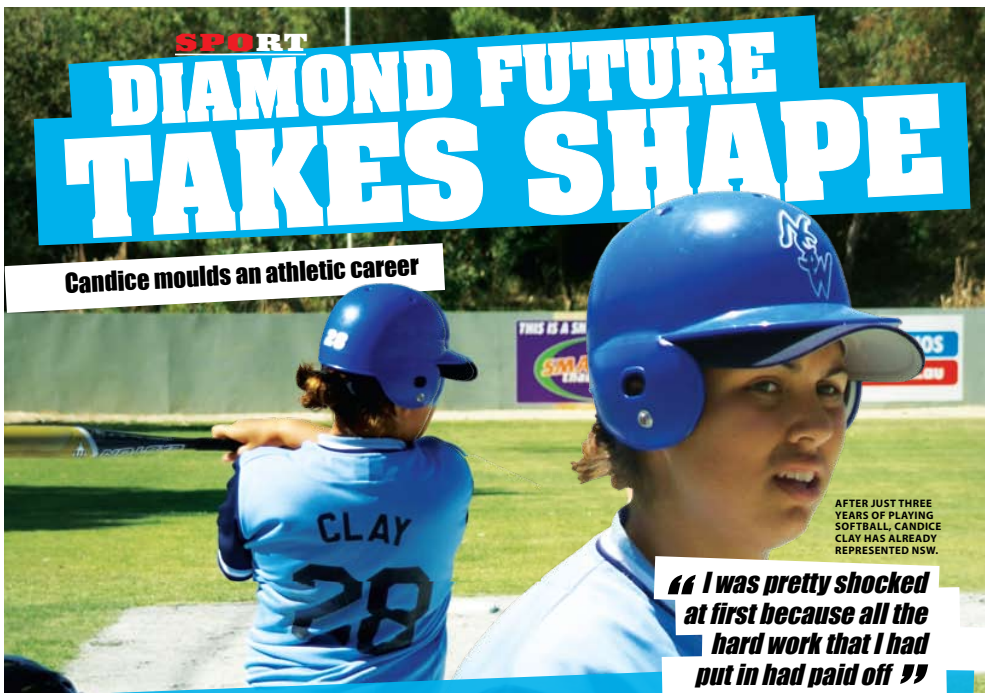


MY NAME

## Diamond Future Takes Shape pg 9



**FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DUAL OLYMPIAN STACEY PORTER, 16-YEAR-OLD CANDICE CLAY HAS HER SIGHTS SET ON BECOMING THE NEXT INDIGENOUS STAR OF WOMEN'S SOFTBALL.**

With the amazing success of Indigenous softball player Stacey Porter in recent years, more and more young Indigenous girls are taking up the sport. One young woman who is fast tracking her success on the softball diamond is 16-year-old Candice Clay. She only took up softball three years ago and was introduced to the sport by her auntie.

"I used to watch my auntie play when I was little," says Candice, "but it wasn't until one of my friends from school started playing that I got more interested. I played a game for her team and just kept on playing from there."

For the past three years, Candice has played for the Mayfield Steelers Softball Club in Newcastle, NSW, playing in both first-grade women's and senior high divisions. This means Candice pretty much eats, breathes and sleeps softball, playing three games a week and training every single day.

After making the Newcastle Under 16 team in 2007, Candice was reselected in 2008 and then she was picked to play for the NSW Under 16 team.

"I was on holidays at the time and Mum called me to tell me that I had been picked in the state team. It was really exciting. I was pretty shocked at first because all the hard work that I had put in had paid off."

At the 2009 National Titles in Perth, Candice's NSW team won the tournament after playing 14 matches, and defeated Queensland in the final, 10-0. A centre or left fielder, Candice picked up seven outs and also hit a home run during the tournament.

"It was the best time I've ever had," says Candice, speaking about the experience.

"Just winning the games, being with a team I hardly knew... and now we're just as close as I am with my best friends from school."

Naturally, Candice considers Indigenous softball champion and Australian player Stacey Porter a huge inspiration.

"She's my idol and such an awesome player. I got to meet her at the state dinner and she's also friends with my auntie," says Candice.

"Because it was my first time at Nationals, she told me that even though it's at the top level, just to treat it like another game and not to stress out or anything."

Now in Year 10, Candice is interested in working as a police woman or with animals when she finishes school. Then there's her dream of wearing the green and gold for Australia one day.

With only three years' experience in the sport and having already played at the highest state level, this talented young player is well and truly on her way.

vibe.com.au

Deadly Vibe March 2009 | 9

Year 10 student Candice Clay has ambitions to become the next big thing in women's softball. She has already made a huge impact on the sport, after taking it up just three years ago.

Candice has played first grade women's and senior high divisions for the Mayfield Steelers Softball Club in Newcastle NSW and played in the National Titles in Perth this year.

Indigenous softball champion Stacey Porter is a great inspiration to Candice.



## Activity 1: Understanding what you read

Read *Diamond Future Takes Shape* on page 9.  
Shade one bubble.

### 1. Candice was introduced to softball by

- Stacey Porter.
- her auntie.
- her friends from school.
- her Mum.

### 2. Casey took up softball

- last year.
- 2009.
- three years ago.
- when she was 16.

### 3. According to the text, what was one thing that got Candice more interested in playing softball?

- her ambition to be at the top of the sport.
- one of her friends from school started playing.
- watching her auntie play.
- playing for the Mayfield Steelers.

### 4. What is the main purpose of this text?

- to warn
- to argue
- to inform
- to criticise

### 5. ...Candice pretty much eats, breathes and sleeps softball... This suggests that

- she stays near the playing field a lot.
- all her friends are involved in softball.
- she likes softball.
- she has a high level of commitment to the sport and most of her spare time is taken up with softball.



6. According to the text, what was Stacey Porter's advice to Candice at the National Titles?

.....  
.....  
.....

7. This talented young player is well and truly on her way.

Who is the her in this sentence?

- Stacey Porter.
- the reader.
- Candice.
- Candice's auntie.

## Activity 2: Language conventions

### Spelling

Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.

Write the correct spelling of the word on the line below it.

1. More and more Indigenous girls are takeing up softball as a sport.

.....

2. Candice is fast tracking her sucess.

.....

3. Candice has played in the senior high divisons.

.....

4. It was really exiting for Candice to be picked for the NSW state team.

.....

5. All her hard work had payed off.

.....



### Activity 3: Language conventions

Which of the following correctly completes the sentence?  
Shade one bubble.

1. Stacey Porter has had \*\*\*\*\* success in her softball career.

- amaze
- amazingly
- amazing

2. Candice \*\*\*\*\* introduced to the sport by her auntie.

- is
- has
- will be
- was

3. Candice was shocked to be picked for the state team at first \*\*\*\*\* all her hard work was starting to pay off.

- because
- except
- so

### Activity 4. Writing a timeline.

Reread *Diamond Future Takes Shape* on page 9.

Make a timeline to show when Candice took up softball and include all the important landmarks in her career so far.