



Junior White Sox

New Zealand Under 19's Women Softball Team

July 2011

Player withdrawals open the door for another

Due to unexpected withdrawals from the Junior White Sox World Series Team of Arahia Fowell and non-travelling reserve Jordan Mumu both from Hutt Valley, Head Coach Venita Hokai has promoted 18 year old Gillian Wills from the reserve list to the travelling team. Coach Hokai says, "Gillian has been at every gym session, training run and fundraising event since being named as a reserve and has proven her desire to be part of the team".

Although born in South Africa, Gillian is now a West Auckland local. She starting playing tee-ball for the Mt Albert Ramblers at an early age and is still with the club now playing premier club softball. Gillian has been a regular representative for Auckland in every age group and made her first apperance at the 2011 National Fastpitch Championship for Southern Pride. Originally named in the 2009 Junior White Sox Squad that competed at the Friendship Series, Gillian missed out on selection for the 2010 squad but fought her way back to the attention of the selectors and was rewarded by being named a non-travelling reserve.



Gillian states that this is a dream come true. It is extra special for her family who emigrated from South Africa when Gillian was 4 years old. When asked when did she first decide she wanted to be part of the World Series team, Gillian said, "When I first made a rep team [under 13s] I heard about this World Series in Cape Town and I wanted to go. I made a poster for my wardrobe door that said 'Gillian Wills will be part of the New Zealand Under 19s Team in 2011' this was my goal and my promise".