



Will to Win

New Zealand netball greats on team culture and leadership

LANA MCCARTHY, ANDY MARTIN AND GEOFF WATSON



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INSIGHTS AND REVELATIONS FROM SOME OF THE LEGENDS OF NEW ZEALAND NETBALL

A fascinating deep-dive into the development of the Silver Ferns' traditions, the evolution of team culture and the nuts-and-bolts of leadership at an elite level.

Legendary captains and coaches — including Lois Muir, Leigh Gibbs, Bernice Mene, Ruth Aitken and Casey Kopua — candidly discuss the highs and lows of their careers with the Silver Ferns, the effect of the intense rivalry with Australia, coping with gut-wrenching losses, and the resilience of players and coaches.

For the first time the perspective of these key actors is the subject of serious analysis. The book is a real insight into the psychology of a women's high-performance team and it provides a practical guide for developing team culture and leadership for coaches and senior players at all levels.

It also includes comments from Farah Palmer on women in sport and leadership, and a brief history of New Zealand netball, including the gains and losses as netball moved into a semi-professional era and the struggles for sponsorship and media recognition despite it being New Zealand's most popular team sport.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr Lana McCarthy is a lecturer in teacher education at Charles Sturt University, Australia. She was formerly an assistant lecturer in the School of Sport, Exercise and Nutrition at Massey University, Palmerston North.

Dr Andy Martin is a professor in the School of Sport, Exercise and Nutrition at Massey University, Palmerston North. He is the lead author of *Outdoor & Experiential Learning* (2004). He is also co-author of *Legends in Black* with Geoff Watson and Tom Johnson (2014).

Dr Geoff Watson is a senior lecturer in the School of Humanities at Massey University, Palmerston North, where he teaches history. He co-authored *Sport and the New Zealanders: A history* (2018).

SALES POINTS

- A behind-the-scenes look at how an elite women's sport team functions, with insights into coaching, captaincy, team culture and leadership
- Netball is New Zealand's most popular team sport, with approximately 350,000 players, and is consistently one of the highest rating sports on free-to-air TV
- The last history of netball in New Zealand, *Court in the Spotlight*, was published in 1999, well before the game became professionalised, so this book provides a much-needed new perspective
- Many practical insights that will benefit players and coaches at all levels