

Dominguez Hills' third baseman Cindy Gates and her mother, Metro Bus Operator Patricia Gates, proudly display softball award. >

## **Operator Patricia Gates' Daughter is College Softball Star**

By LISA HUYNH

(May 27, 2003) North Los Angeles Division 3 Operator Patricia Gates, hit a homerun when she put her daughter, Cindy, into softball at age seven.

"Cindy has natural talent," says Patricia Gates. I noticed her talent very early on. The energy and drive that she puts forth in every game is amazing."



PHOTO BY LISA HUYNH

Patricia, who also played softball while growing up, has put all three of her daughters in the sport.

"If you were in our family, you played softball," says Patricia.

Cindy, who plays third base at Cal State Dominguez Hills, already has established an impressive career at the age of 18. She had 19 stolen bases this past season.

She also has an excellent batting average of .292 with 45 hits and a team-high of 33 runs to her credit.

### **'A utility player'**

"Cindy is one of those players who can do anything," says her mom. "She's a coach's dream. She's a utility player."

Cindy says softball has been a huge part of her life. "I played in Little League, a club team, three years of varsity softball in high school and now I'm on the team at Dominguez Hills."

A Dominguez Hills softball coach discovered Cindy during one of her club team tournaments and asked if she would like to join the college team after high school.

She gladly accepted and the rest is history.

Along with her teammates, Cindy has contributed to Dominguez Hills' success. The team's season record is 37-15-1, making it the No. 5 seed at the NCAA Division II West Regionals.

"This year, our goal was to make regionals. The last time we made regionals was in 1989," says Cindy Gates. "The extra work and dedication paid off."

Cindy has no plans to go professional after college. She would like to become a high school teacher after she earns her B.A. in History.

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