



The GWS Giants leadership group Mandy Collier, Jessica Dal Pos, Amanda Farrugia, Emma Swanson and Jessica Bibby.

Giants role surprise

Farrugia steps up as captain for first-time AFL women's contest

Martha Azzi

SEVEN HILLS' Amanda Farrugia was shocked when she was told she would captain the GWS Giants in the inaugural AFL women's competition.

The 31-year-old full time physical education teacher at Our Lady of Mercy College at Parramatta has always had a strong passion for AFL.

But as she prepared to play in the debut season of the women's league, the

midfielder was unaware she would be the head of a five-strong leadership group.

"It was a total shock and a complete surprise but then this wave of privilege and honour went across me and I thought this was an amazing opportunity," Farrugia said.

"It's an honour and I'm humbled."

The athlete says her passion and leadership in the sport will help her motivate the next generation of young women.

"As a teacher your students already look up to you but for me to also be able to have this [the leadership] position added on to my role as a PE teacher, it will help give me more of a sporting image among the students."

Farrugia is eager to play in western Sydney and says the team has been training four times a week in the scorching weather as they prepare to play in the region.

"The weather has been pretty hot so we've saddled

through some hard training sessions," Farrugia said.

"But it's been helping us acclimatise for the conditions that we will be playing in once we head out to Blacktown."

Several matches are slated for Blacktown International Sportsspark, starting with the round three match against Fremantle on February 19.

The Giants clash with the Adelaide Crows in round one on Saturday, February 4.