



EST 2017

SEE WHAT WE *CREATED*

CELEBRATING THE INAUGURAL SEASON OF
THE NAB AFL WOMEN'S COMPETITION



FOREWORD BY GILLON McLACHLAN

Text by Andrew Gigacz and AFL Media
Photos by AFL Media

**EVERY GAME,
EVERY PLAYER**

THE WAIT IS OVER: Carlton's captain Lauren Arnell has her team ready to run on to the Blues' home ground, Ikon Park, for the first AFLW match, against Collingwood.



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A revolution achieved

BY GILLON MCLACHLAN

A season that changed the game forever

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2017 AFLW BEST ON GROUND: Erin Phillips

THE AWARDS

THE 214 THAT LED THE WAY, AND THEIR CLUBS

Adelaide Crows

Brisbane Lions

Carlton Blues

Collingwood Magpies

Fremantle Dockers

GWS Giants

Melbourne Demons

Western Bulldogs



NO HOLDING BACK:
Collingwood marquee
player Moana Hope
fends off Crows tackler
Georgia Bevan.

ROUND 1 /  

THEY CAME IN DROVES

The question of whether the public enthusiasm for an elite national women's competition would match that of the players was emphatically answered in a memorable opening round.

THERE had been plenty of hype leading into the first round of AFL Women's, but what unfolded in Melbourne and Adelaide on the first weekend of February was beyond the wildest dreams of even the most optimistic.

More than 50,000 attended the four opening round matches, with over 24,000 at the inaugural AFLW match between Carlton and Collingwood on Friday night. Fans were still trying to get into Ikon Park during the first quarter when the gates were locked and up to 2000 turned away. AFL CEO Gill McLachlan came out to apologise to those locked out.

Collingwood's Jasmine Garner wrote her name into the history books, scoring the first AFLW goal, but it was to be the Magpies' only major of the match as Darcy Vescio led Carlton to an impressive 35-point win.

At Thebarton Oval in Adelaide, the Crows blitzed Greater Western Sydney by 36 points to kick off their season in style, with Australian basketballer Erin Phillips (daughter of former Port Adelaide and Collingwood star Greg Phillips) booting three goals on debut.

A beautiful summer's evening at Whitten Oval saw women's football pioneers, the Western Bulldogs, comfortably account for fellow premiership favourite Fremantle. The next day saw another pioneer team—Melbourne—succumb surprisingly to Brisbane at Casey Fields in a game interrupted by lightning strikes.

In a season only seven rounds long, the first-up wins for Carlton, Adelaide, the Bulldogs and Brisbane were, potentially, vital.

THE FIRST MATCH: Carlton and Collingwood players line up for the national anthem at the opening AFLW game at Ikon Park.



THE FIRST WINNERS: As she is here in the team's celebrations, Carlton forward Darcy Vescio was the focus of the team on field with four goals in the win over Collingwood in the inaugural AFLW match. Alongside Vescio here are Kate Darby (left) and Kate Shierlaw.



ROUND 1
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
IKON PARK



A SCINTILLATING four-goal performance from Carlton marquee forward Darcy Vescio powered her side to a 35-point win over Collingwood in the competition's opening in front of a 24,000-plus full house –2000 fans were turned away.

The crowd was treated to a cracking contest, with the intensity at a high standard on a stunning Melbourne evening. The Blues made the early running thanks to three first-half goals from marquee player Vescio and ran away to a triumphant 7.4 (46) to 1.5 (11) victory.

The Blues' other marquee player, Brianna Davey, and midfielder Nat Exon were also standouts for the winners.

HOW ABOUT THAT CROWD: The AFL officially declared a lockout at 8pm, midway through the first quarter. League CEO Gillon McLachlan addressed and apologised to the estimated 1000-2000 people unable to get into the venue, based on the advice of Victoria Police. The match had been moved from Olympic Park to Ikon Park in anticipation of a large crowd. "It's an amazing turnout and clearly we're a little overwhelmed by the response," McLachlan said.

THE STAR OF THE SHOW: Darcy Vescio was unstoppable all night as her speed and uncanny instincts around goal proved too difficult to curb. The 23-year-old booted three goals in the first half, and impressed in the variety of ways in which she scored them.

THE FIRST GOALKICKER: The Blues may have dominated the contest, but it was Collingwood's Jasmine Garner who will go down in history as the first goalkicker in the AFLW competition. Garner marked strongly before coolly slotting the major from 30 metres out directly in front.

THEY SAID: "The players came with a real balance tonight of being in the moment, and recognising it for what it was, but also being prepared to perform."—Carlton coach Damien Keeping

CARLTON	3.0	4.1	6.1	7.4	(46)
COLLINGWOOD	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	(11)
GOALS:	Carlton: Vescio 4, Arnell, Davey, Jakobsson Collingwood: Garner				
BEST	Carlton: Davey, Vescio, Exon, Jakobsson, Arnell, Keryk Collingwood: D'Arcy, Chiocci, Barden, White				
UMPIRES:	Annie Mirabile, Nathan Toner, Jack Spencer				
OFFICIAL CROWD:	24,568 at Ikon Park				

PLAYER STATISTICS

CARLTON										
NO	PLAYER	POS	D	K	HB	M	HO	T	G.B	
1	Brianna Davey	BP	26	15	11	3	0	0	1.0	
2	Katie Loynes	INT	8	4	4	0	0	4	0.0	
3	Darcy Vescio	FB	13	10	3	2	0	2	4.1	
4	Madeline Keryk	BP	12	7	5	0	0	6	0.0	
5	Katherine Gillespie-Jones	HBF	10	1	9	1	0	2	0.0	
6	Gabriella Pound	CHB	7	5	2	0	0	5	0.0	
7	Sarah Last	HBF	9	5	4	1	0	0	0.0	
10	Sarah Hosking	RR	5	1	4	0	0	6	0.0	
12	Lauren Brazzale	C	11	9	2	2	0	4	0.0	
13	Lauren Arnell	R	14	7	7	3	0	3	1.1	
14	Laura Attard	HFF	5	3	2	1	0	0	0.0	
15	Nat Exon	CHF	10	4	6	0	0	4	0.0	
16	Breann Moody	INT	3	2	1	1	14	2	0.0	
18	Tilly Lucas-Rodd	HFF	9	6	3	0	0	5	0.1	
22	Isabella Ayre	INT	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.0	
23	Jessica Kennedy	INT	8	4	4	1	0	2	0.0	
26	Shae Audley	INT	6	3	3	0	0	4	0.0	
27	Alison Brown	INT	5	3	2	1	0	2	0.0	
30	Alison Downie	FP	7	4	3	1	16	4	0.0	
31	Danielle Hardiman	FF	11	9	2	4	0	2	0.0	
32	Natalie Plane	FP	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	
35	Bianca Jakobsson	RK	17	9	8	5	0	2	1.0	

COLLINGWOOD										
NO	PLAYER	POS	D	K	HB	M	HO	T	G.B	
1	Caitlyn Edwards	INT	11	8	3	2	0	4	0.1	
2	Alicia Eva	BP	9	6	3	1	0	8	0.0	
4	Sarah D'Arcy	FB	14	10	4	3	0	2	0.0	
5	Emma Grant	BP	3	2	1	0	0	4	0.0	
6	Christina Bernardi	INT	4	4	0	3	0	1	0.0	
7	Lauren Tesoriero	HBF	3	1	2	0	0	5	0.0	
8	Brittany Bonnici	C	8	5	3	1	0	9	0.0	
11	Helen Roden	INT	4	3	1	1	0	5	0.0	
12	Stacey Livingstone	CHB	7	5	2	2	0	3	0.0	
17	Stephanie Chiocci	HBF	9	7	2	1	0	3	0.1	
18	Ruby Schleicher	INT	7	2	5	0	7	4	0.0	
20	Cecilia McIntosh	R	8	5	3	2	0	4	0.0	
21	Nicola Stevens	RR	7	5	2	3	0	8	0.0	
22	Sophie Casey	HFF	4	2	2	2	0	2	0.0	
23	Moana Hope	CHF	4	1	3	1	0	1	0.1	
25	Meg Hutchins	HFF	10	10	0	3	1	2	0.0	
26	Tara Morgan	FP	8	8	0	2	0	8	0.0	
27	Jessica Cameron	INT	7	7	0	3	0	1	0.1	
33	Bree White	INT	10	6	4	0	0	4	0.0	
38	Amelia Barden	FF	14	8	6	1	0	5	0.0	
43	Jasmine Garner	FP	7	6	1	3	0	3	1.0	
60	Emma King	RK	5	4	1	1	20	1	0.0	

TOP HISTORY MAKER: Magpie Jasmine Garner celebrates kicking the first goal of the AFLW competition.

BOTTOM POWER PLAY: Carlton's Nat Exon shrugs off two tacklers.



↑ FULL HOUSE? ABSOLUTELY: Ikon Park was at capacity, officials having to turn fans away, for the historic Round 1 AFLW clash.

LEFT SMASH AND GRAB: Carlton's Shae Audley and Sarah D'Arcy of the Magpies go in hard.

RIGHT A WHOLE LOT OF LOVE: Teammates envelop Jasmine Garner after she kicks the first goal in the AFLW.



↑ YOU BEAUTY: Coach Damien Keeping is thrilled with Lauren Arnell's contribution to the Blues' win.

← UP THERE, A. DOWNIE: The lights are on at Ikon Park as Carlton's Alison Downie wins a hitout against Emma King of the Magpies.



EST 2017

ROUND 1

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

THEBARTON OVAL



Adelaide easily accounted for GWS in front of another bumper crowd at a wet Thebarton Oval. The Crows dominated the game throughout to win by 36 points. Co-captain Erin Phillips booted three goals for the Crows, while Ebony Marinoff picked up a game-high 20 possessions. Rhiannon Metcalfe controlled the ruck and gave gold-plated service to midfielders Marinoff and co-captain Chelsea Randall. The Giants, missing marquee signings Emma Swanson and Renee Forth, took until the last quarter to kick their first goal—put through by Phoebe McWilliams.

THE FIRST BLOW: Kellie Gibson wrote herself into Adelaide football history, booting the club's first goal with a sensational long-range effort. The West Australian gave the ball a mighty roost and it bounced through the big sticks to the delight of the large local crowd.

THE DIFFERENCE: The Crows had winners all over the ground. Hard-running midfielder Ebony Marinoff was everywhere, Chelsea Randall and Kellie Gibson were excellent and former Olympic basketballer Phillips was dangerous up forward.

WORK IN PROGRESS: It was always going to be a tough ask for an undermanned GWS without the injured Forth and Swanson. Jess Dal Pos was outstanding, nailing nine tackles, and Nicole Barr and captain Amanda Farrugia led from the front.

THEY SAID: *"She's an unbelievable athlete and she showed a glimpse of what she's capable of today."*—Adelaide coach Bec Goddard on ex-basketball star Erin Phillips.

"We matched them right from the start. Our first five minutes were sensational, but they probably utilised their opportunities a little bit more."—GWS coach Tim Schmidt.

ADELAIDE	1.3	3.6	6.6	7.6	(48)
GWS	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.6	(12)
GOALS: Adelaide: Phillips 3, Randall, Gibson, Varnhagen, Perkins. Greater Western Sydney: McWilliams					
BEST: Adelaide: Marinoff, Randall, Phillips, Gibson, Varnhagen, Mules Greater Western Sydney: Barr, Farrugia, McWilliams, Dal Pos					
UMPIRES: Tom Bryce, Harrison Hughes, Sam Morgan					
OFFICIAL CROWD: 9250 at Thebarton Oval					



WHAT A START: Talia Radan lifts Ebony Marinoff, who raises her arms in celebration of the Crows' big win in Round 1 against GWS Giants.

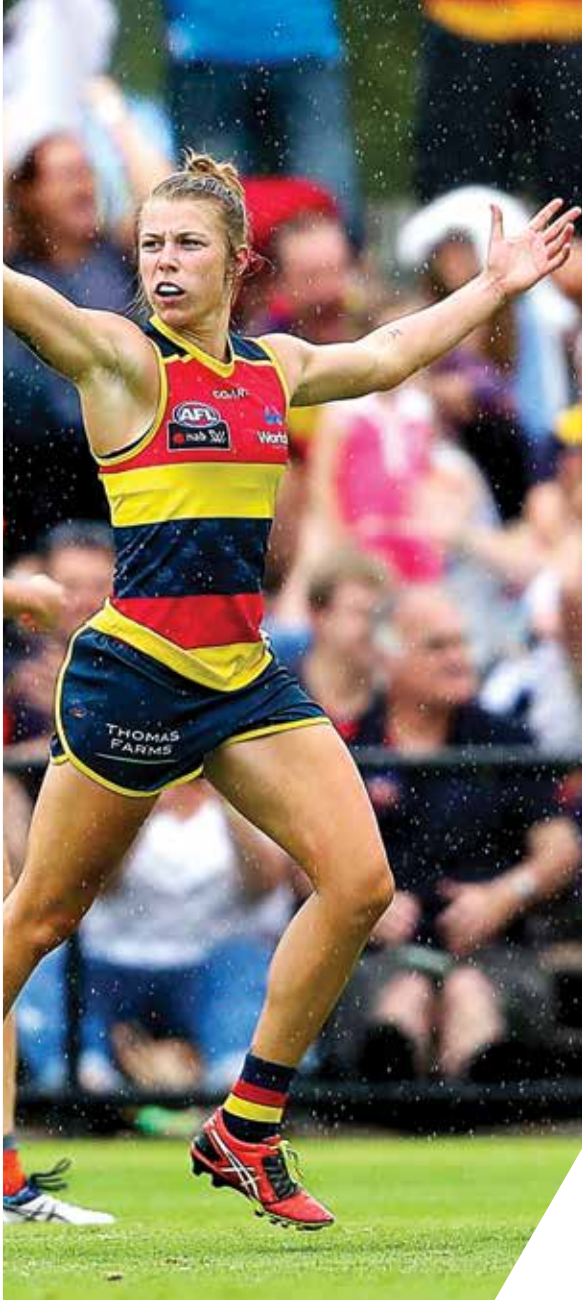
PLAYER STATISTICS

ADELAIDE										
NO	PLAYER	POS	D	K	HB	M	HO	T	G.B	
1	Abbey Holmes	BP	8	6	2	1	0	4	0.0	
2	Kellie Gibson	FB	6	5	1	1	0	0	1.0	
3	Angela Foley	BP	7	5	2	1	0	2	0.0	
4	Georgia Bevan	INT	7	6	1	2	0	4	0.0	
6	Talia Radan	CHB	4	3	1	2	0	1	0.0	
8	Sally Riley	HBF	9	4	5	1	0	2	0.0	
9	Deni Varnhagen	C	12	10	2	4	0	0	1.0	
10	Ebony Marinoff	R	20	13	7	2	0	6	0.1	
11	Rhiannon Metcalfe	HFF	5	2	3	0	17	1	0.0	
13	Erin Phillips	RK	15	10	5	2	0	1	3.3	
14	Stevie-Lee Thompson	RR	6	3	3	0	0	4	0.0	
15	Tayla Thorn	INT	3	2	1	1	3	4	0.0	
17	Jessica Sedunary	HBF	5	4	1	1	0	4	0.0	
18	Monique Hollick	INT	6	3	3	0	0	3	0.0	
19	Heather Anderson	INT	7	5	2	1	0	3	0.0	
22	Courtney Cramey	CHF	7	6	1	1	0	1	0.0	
23	Justine Mules	INT	11	4	7	0	0	4	0.0	
26	Chelsea Randall	HFF	16	11	5	3	1	6	1.0	
28	Sarah Perkins	FP	8	6	2	3	0	1	1.0	
31	Dayna Cox	INT	9	6	3	2	0	3	0.0	
33	Anne Hatchard	FF	9	3	6	3	0	0	0.0	
39	Sarah Allan	FP	5	2	3	0	2	1	0.0	

GWS GIANTS										
NO	PLAYER	POS	D	K	HB	M	HO	T	G.B	
1	Renee Tomkins	BP	10	8	2	3	0	1	0.0	
3	Phoebe McWilliams	FF	10	6	4	4	0	2	1.1	
4	Alexandra Saundry	FB	5	4	1	1	0	2	0.0	
6	Rebecca Beeson	BP	10	4	6	1	0	3	0.1	
7	Jess Dal Pos	HBF	12	11	1	3	0	9	0.0	
8	Nicola Barr	CHB	13	9	4	1	0	5	0.0	
9	Kristy De Pellegrini	HBF	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.0	
11	Aimee Schmidt	HFF	6	4	2	4	0	1	0.0	
13	Hannah Wallett	INT	3	2	1	1	0	2	0.1	
14	Maddy Collier	C	9	8	1	2	0	6	0.0	
15	Ella Ross	INT	9	4	5	0	0	2	0.0	
16	Britt Tully	FP	13	10	3	1	0	3	0.0	
18	Amanda Farrugia	RK	12	10	2	4	0	3	0.0	
19	Ashleigh Guest	RR	8	4	4	1	0	5	0.0	
20	Alex Williams	CHF	8	6	2	2	0	0	0.0	
22	Jess Bibby	INT	11	8	3	4	0	3	0.0	
23	Erin McKinnon	INT	4	0	4	0	5	1	0.0	
24	Hannah Dunn	INT	4	3	1	1	0	4	0.0	
31	Codie Briggs	INT	1	0	1	0	0	4	0.0	
33	Kate Stanton	HFF	4	3	1	1	0	3	0.1	
34	Jacinda Barclay	FP	6	5	1	2	0	2	0.1	
41	Clare Lawton	R	5	3	2	0	3	0	0.0	

TOP THE CROWS' FIRST GOAL: Kellie Gibson is pretty happy with her long, bouncing shot.

BOTTOM TOP TAP: Adelaide's Rhiannon Metcalfe, who was dominant in the ruck, wins a hitout over Clare Lawton of the Giants.



↑ YES, YES: Deni Varnhagen (right) kicked the goal, but Ebony Marinoff's joy is just as great.

← SHOWING THE WAY: Captain Amanda Farrugia (GWS) gets her kick away despite the smothering attempt from Georgia Bevan.

SEE WHAT WE *CREATED*



CELEBRATING A SUPER SEASON OF FOOTY

See What We Created is a celebration of the inaugural season of the AFL Women's competition—eight pioneer teams playing at the elite level in a no-holds-barred competition.

See What We Created features a comprehensive review of each round and the Grand Final, illustrated with the superb photography of AFL Media's team of award-winning photographers.

"The 2017 NAB AFL Women's Competition was a revolution for our game. The football on offer came from a new breed of footy heroes and, for our fans, there was an overwhelming sense of nostalgia that came with a return of competitive footy to suburban grounds."

GILLON McLACHLAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

See What We Created a pictorial record of the AFLW inaugural season 2017, a Slattery Media Publication, under licence from the AFL, will be published this May.

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