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OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN

Cox swiftly takes the lead

photographer **Michael Bradley**

By Veronica Miller

Catherine Cox has quite a year ahead of her. As the newly appointed captain of the NSW Swifts, she is looking forward to taking her team into the first year of the ANZ Championship.

“I’m stoked to be Captain,” she says. “The NSW Swifts have a winning culture and this year is going to be very competitive for us. But while we have a very strong team, and obviously would love to win the first season of the ANZ Championship, and at the risk of sounding clichéd,” she laughed, “we are going to be concentrating on playing one game at a time.”

Cox has a job many would envy, but she’s also filling the shoes of an Australian netball legend, which is sure to be a daunting prospect.

“Taking over from Liz Ellis (as a NSW team captain), I have massive shoes to fill. She is one of the best netballers the country has every seen, and was a great captain of both the Sydney Swifts and Australia. I’ve learnt so much

from her over the years, and I’ll be bringing that to my leadership of the new NSW Swifts.”

Always a loud voice on the team, Cox’s goal is to be a voice for all the players. “One of the greatest challenges this year will be the integration of all our players into the NSW Swifts,” she added.

But while Cox aspires to the Australian captaincy, she’s really not in it for the glory of the leadership role. “Of course it would be great, but I’m really just looking forward to playing with my team-mates again. That’s why I play the game – not for the money, although it’s nice, I love it for the team environment, for the opportunity to play with my friends and to share the highs and lows of elite competition.”

After eleven years with the Sydney Swifts and eleven years with the Australian team, Cox is one of the most experienced players in the country. What advice would she have for younger players who aspire to a career as successful as hers?

“That’s something I’ve been

thinking about as I realise I am closer to the end of my career than the beginning. To any netballer on her way up, I would say: make the most of your opportunities,” Cox said seriously. “Every time you go to training or get on the court, work to the best of your abilities. Netball should be fun, but it’s also hard work.”

